

ANZAC DAY

IN THE RIVERINA & CENTRAL WEST



25TH APRIL 2021

Commemorative booklet proudly presented by
Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister of Australia
Federal Member for Riverina



AIR FORCE CENTENARY 2021



COVER: (top picture) A Sopwith Snipe 7.F.1, pictured in March 1918, powered by a 200 horsepower Bentley rotary engine; (middle picture) A Spitfire Mark XVI flown by Cameron Rolph-Smith at the Temora Aviation Museum RAAF Centenary Showcase, held on 6 March 2021; (bottom picture) A Royal Australian Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft flown by Squadron Leader Phil Eldridge, conducting flypasts at the Air Force Centenary Showcase in Temora.

BACK PAGE: The Supermarine Spitfire Mark VIII is one of the Temora Aviation Museum's showcase pieces. It is one of only three flying Spitfires in Australia.

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NOW AND THEN: The front of RAAF Base Wagga as it looked many decades ago (above) compared to what it looks like today (opposite page).

RAAF'S 100 YEARS OF KEEPING AUSTRALIA SAFE

ROYAL Australian Air Force's centenary this year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the service and sacrifice given by so many for so long.

ANZAC Day is our most important annual day and a time when we pause in silent gratitude to remember the fallen and respect those who proudly wore a uniform to keep our country free.

Across the nation on 25 April, communities will gather to honour those who returned and those who are buried in foreign fields.

Forever liveth their names – not just chiselled on monuments and in tales of their battlefield heroics – but in the hearts and minds of grateful descendants.

COVID-19 prevented the usual commemorations last year but Returned and Services League branches throughout Australia have worked hard with health officials to ensure services go ahead in 2021 in a way which is safe for public health.

Ensuring our brave men and women of wars past, and indeed the latest to do their duty and represent our armed forces, are appropriately acknowledged is near and dear to so many people.

Never has it been more important to celebrate and commemorate what we have and why we have it.

That there are 102,911 names on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra emphasises the price these brave men and women were prepared to pay for our peace and security.

Every community in the Riverina and Central West has a connection to our nation's military heritage.

Now we have an opportunity to say thanks on ANZAC Day to those who risked all and those who gave all for our sake.

Australians owe a special debt of gratitude in 2021 to the RAAF, which marks 100 years of winning in the blue yonder.

RAAF's history has been indelibly linked with Wagga Wagga's through Forest Hill and also via many other local centres including the Air Observers School at Cootamundra, Elementary Flying Training Schools at Narrandera and Temora, Service Flying Training Schools at Deniliquin and Uranquinty and a Wireless Air Gunners School at Parkes.

Young men and women are still prepared to fight for what is right and many of them are trained in Wagga Wagga, which says much for our future as a defence city and region as we patriotically honour the deeds of those who went before us.

Michael McCormack

THE HON.
MICHAEL McCORMACK MP
Deputy Prime Minister of Australia
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport
and Regional Development
Federal Member for Riverina



ICONIC IMAGE: From Ariah Park to the famous Sphinx ... Arthur Thomas White (left) and Thomas Miles in Egypt during their days with the AIF's Camel Corps. This picture, the one of the headstone (Page 8) and family photographs courtesy Cathy Laughton, A T White's great-granddaughter.



ARIAH PARK TO AIR CORPS...

the Arthur White story

FROM the classroom at Ariah Park to being a special part of Australia's early Air Force history ... that was the fascinating and unique journey taken by a remarkable Riverina Digger.

The call to arms from the Dardanelles was very much a spur for Arthur Thomas White and so many others who signed on for service in the Australian Imperial Force in 1916.

Arthur finished his AIF time in the Australian Flying Corps, formed in 1912 and which was succeeded in 1920 by the Australian Air Corps which was the forerunner of the Royal Australian Air Force, which celebrates and commemorates a proud centenary of service this year.

Patriots such as Arthur and so many others came from every far-flung corner of the land and from every background and occupation to do their bit ... to play their part for God, King and Country.

Initial research on the number of teachers who enlisted was undertaken by a teacher ANZAC who returned to Australia after The Great War, who became an Inspector of Schools and who felt obligated to record the service of his fellow "chalkies".

In spite of his own war injuries, Thomas Alexander White (1886-1962) of Dulwich Hill in Sydney's Inner West moved round the school system documenting the men who made it home and ensuring records were made of those who served and especially the deeds of those who died.

His foundation research on teacher soldiers indicated 755 teachers joined up to fight in World War I.

More recently, former Technical and Further Education head teacher Ken Stevenson has been busy delving into the histories of Sydney Technical College staff who served and he has discovered many more teacher servicemen whose names are not included on the education honour rolls.

He painstakingly cross-referenced war memorial records with names from Technical College exam results and found as many as 1000-1500 teacher soldiers could have served in the 1914-18 conflict.

Arthur White was the second son of Alfred (1853-1892) and Elizabeth (née Sanders) (1857-1934) and was born on 25 September 1881 at Alton Street, Woollahra. *continued ...*



FAMILY PORTRAIT: Taken in 1910, this photo shows Arthur White (back, second from left) with his widowed mother Elizabeth (seated, dark dress) and his siblings, (back, from left) Elva, Fred and Gert; (front) Isabelle, Victor and Ruth. Another sibling, William, died at the age of 2 in 1886.

A MAN OF DUTY, HONOUR

Tragically, Alfred, a builder at the time of Arthur's birth and later a telegraph operator, died in 1892 from typhoid fever which he contracted whilst nursing Arthur through the deadly disease. Alfred took on the task of nursing 11-year-old Arthur, so the family story goes, to protect Elizabeth who was pregnant with Victor. Elizabeth was left to raise seven children with very few resources and sewed shirts to make a meagre income.

Arthur left school early as he needed to help support his family financially and took up an apprenticeship with W C Penfold and Company, a printing firm on Pitt Street, Sydney, for six or seven years.

He attended night school and sat for the public service examination in order to be qualified to teach, with his first appointment on 23 May 1902 at Ariah Park Provisional School on probation on an annual salary of £72. His salary increased to £81 in June the following year and his appointment was confirmed on 11 August 1903. The school was converted to a public school from 1 October 1904.

Arthur met and fell in love with Christina May Fong, daughter of James (circa 1843-1890) and Margaret (née Smith) (1859-1943), who had been born at Merool Creek (Mirrool) on 20 August 1888.

Arthur and Christina were married at Ariah Park on 8 February 1908 and their first child, Elva, was born that year.

He passed a number of other exams over the years and was promoted to class 2A teacher by 1910 when a residence was built into which he and his growing family moved.

When the first Ariah Park Show was held on 8 September 1909, Arthur had the secretarial duties.

He encouraged other family members to move to Ariah Park, including three of his younger sisters, brother Victor and his mother, who lived out her days in the district, dying at Ardlethan in 1934.

Arthur was teaching at Ariah Park's State school when he opted to enlist at Cootamundra on 21 March 1916 alongside Thomas Miles, who was also teaching at the village's public school.



HAPPY FAMILY: Arthur and Christina and six of their seven children (Ian, the youngest, is not pictured).



SHOWMAN: Arthur White was an active member of Ariah Park's inaugural Show Committee. He was secretary in this photograph from 1909 ... seated left in the second row. The committee comprised: (rear) J Moriarty; (next row standing, from left) T Sanderson, I Trevaskis, H W Judd, G H Harrison, L Soles, T Howell and judges W J Cartwright, Corby and Moody; (2nd row) secretary A T White, L Deutscher, R A Gemmel, president J G Davey, treasurer A H Judd, J E Rowston, G F Davey; (front) R McCawley, R Heath, F Davey and judge Hyde. Picture courtesy Ariah Park Centenary Show: The Good Old Days ... and the Good Old Ways edited by Renée E Mutton (2012).

AND SERVICE

Arthur White's service number was 1237, Thomas Miles's 1243.

Aged 3½, Arthur was not a big man ... five feet six inches (167 centimetres) tall and weighing nine stone, six pounds, or 60 kilograms wringing wet.

Thomas was 41, the same height but slightly (about 5kg) heavier.

He left behind wife Fanny and four children: Eric (born 1900), Thomas (1902), Charles (1905) and Ronald (1909).

Arthur was transferred to the camp at Goulburn on 16 June 1916 and to Menangle on 6 July. Both he and Thomas embarked at Sydney with the Camel Corps, General Reinforcements, aboard HMAT A43 *Barunga* on 20 October 1916.

Twenty of those in the 25-strong group were from the country, mostly from northern New South Wales. They were men of endurance, bred tough who were used to hard, labouring work.

Thankfully, yet unusually, every one of them made it back home.

Three of the 25 had white-collar jobs and were allotted ranks above private.

White was made an Acting Corporal, Miles an Acting Sergeant and shop assistant Loyal Vincent McLachlan of Warialda also an Acting Corporal.

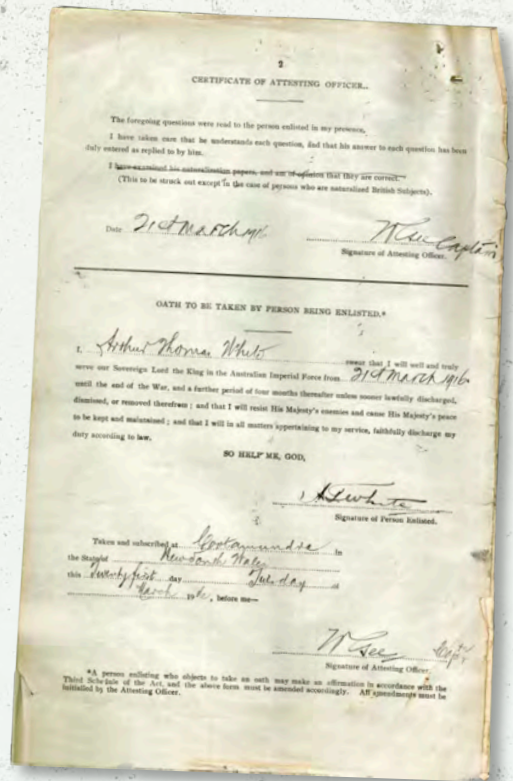
Arthur and Christina had four daughters – Elva (born 1908), Gwen (1910), Ida (1912), Muriel (1914) and a child on the way (Arthur, born in 1917) when the *Barunga* left Sydney. Two more sons, Noel (1919) and Ian (1924), completed the family after the war. Ian passed away only last year. Noel tried to enlist for World War II with Arthur Junior (see Page 9) but was knocked back because of poor eyesight.

The ship which took Arthur Senior and Thomas and the latest of Australia's best and the bravest to war had an interesting history.

In 1914 the German-owned SS *Sumatra* of Hamburg, part of the Deutsche-Australische Line, was seized in Sydney and taken over by Australian officers and crew.

Renamed *Barunga*, the 7484-ton steamship completed three trips carrying troops from Australia as well as one in October 1917 with cargo only.

On 14 July 1918 *Barunga* departed the English port city of Plymouth with invalided Australian troops returning to Australia.



SO HELP ME GOD: The enlistment papers Arthur Thomas White signed at Cootamundra on 21 March 1916. Arthur signed up for the AIF but finished his military career in the Flying Corps.

At 4.20pm the following day, when at a point 150 miles (241 kilometres) west by south from the Isles of Scilly in the North Atlantic, a torpedo washed through the starboard bow. Destroyers which had been some miles away were quickly on the scene to pick up survivors and return them to Plymouth.

All hands were saved before *Barunga* subsequently sank.

German submarine *U-108*, commanded by Korvettenkapitän (or Corvette captain) Martin Nitzsche (1883-1944), was responsible for the sinking.

Nine days after the 1918 Armistice this U-boat was surrendered to France where she was commissioned as *Léon Mignot* and served until 1935.

Arthur and Thomas's voyage on the *Barunga* in 1916 was much less eventful.

When the voyage was completed, Arthur and Thomas arrived on 14 December 1916 at the Moascar Isolation Camp, Ismailia in north-eastern Egypt on the west bank of the Suez Canal, which was the site of the training area for the 1st and 2nd Australian and the New Zealand A Divisions.

continued ...

LIFE AFTER THE WAR

During World War I, this camp provided the final preparation for entrainment to Alexandria and the Western Front. The isolation camps screened soldiers arriving in Egypt as reinforcements for a fortnight, checking for any illnesses such as measles which can break out when people are confined in close proximity for long periods.

Arthur had a few bouts of illness which required hospitalisation, including an appendectomy operation during his war service but, as with all things in his life, he served with distinction and gave his all.

He joined the 67th Flying Squadron at Abbassia on 15 February 1918.

Equipped initially with DH-5 aircraft (replaced by SE-5 in December 1917), 67 Squadron was a "scout" unit, its main role to escort larger, slower aircraft, seek out and destroy enemy aircraft and provide support for ground troops.

Arthur, his duty done and the war over, embarked HMT *Somali* at Suez on Boxing Day 1918, arriving back in Australia on 14 February 1919 and being discharged from the AIF on 25 July 1919.

Upon returning, Arthur recommenced teaching at Ariah Park where he was head teacher from 1924-26 before serving at Quandary Public School in 1927.

The local newspaper *Ariah Park News* carried many articles about Arthur, his teaching talents and the appreciation expressed for the concerts he conducted ... with the assistance of his musically minded sisters.

Arthur also tried his hand at farming and a business venture with his brother Victor operating a hardware store which did not go so well. Victor later became a missionary in India and returned to Ariah Park over a period of 30 years to speak to the congregation of the local Baptist Church about his ministry.

In his typical community-service style, Arthur was secretary of the local Farmers and Settlers Association, representing the district at annual conferences in Sydney.

He was a keen sportsman, playing golf, captaining his tennis club and excelling at cricket, particularly as a wicketkeeper ... later telling his grandchildren his arthritic, bent fingers were as a result of his many afternoons behind the stumps!

Arthur left the Riverina at the end of 1927, moving to Orange and teaching at Lucknow in 1928 and later at Nashdale.

He remained at Orange until his sudden death, aged 68, at his residence on Thomas Street, on 2 July 1950.

His widow Christina outlived Arthur by 14½ years.

Arthur's mate Thomas Miles left the war front for home per HT *Delta* on 5 February 1919 and lived a full life, passing away at his residence on Station Street, Fairfield, on 18 December 1944 in his 70th year.



*AT PEACE (top):
The final resting
place of Arthur
Thomas White at
Orange.*

*BRAVE (above):
Arthur T White.*

*ALWAYS
REMEMBERED:
Arthur White's name
appears on the Ariah
Park war memorial.*

NOT AN IDEAL PLACE TO LAND ...



HE WAS forced to bail from his Lancaster bomber, but Arthur White Jnr didn't plan to lob almost directly on top of a Gestapo headquarters.

Then again, not everything went to plan in the fierce combat of war.

It was February 1945 and Arthur and his mates were in the thick of their 21st mission over Germany. The night was pitch black save for flashes from gunfire and bombs. This was a long way from flight training back home at Temora, a long way from his parents and family in the Central West of New South Wales.

At the same time, he knew of situations such as this. His Dad, Arthur T. White, had been a teacher at Ariaiah Park's State school when he opted to enlist at Cootamundra in March 1916 to serve in The Great War.

Arthur Jnr never discovered why his plane "just blew up". Perhaps it was enemy fire. There was always a chance his aircraft was accidentally hit by a bomb from another Lancaster.

Blacking out, he came to in time – just in time – to open his parachute. What was to follow was worse ... much worse.

Captured by German troops, Arthur was interrogated hour after hour, over three weeks. He was offered no information on how many of his mates had also been captured and were being interrogated. It was nothing but questions to him, over and over.

Years later, back in Carcoar, NSW, he recounted: "I just gave them my name and number." Finally, a German sergeant approached and said to Arthur, simply, in fluent English: "You show much courage" ... and walked away.

Transferred to a Prisoner of War camp near Frankfurt, Arthur recognised some other Allied airmen, but none of his mates from his own aircraft were there. No-one had any answers, and he began to fear the worst. It was a fear about his mates he was to carry after the Allied victory in 1945 and carry throughout his journey home.

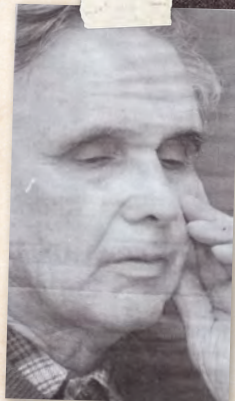
In fact, Arthur carried his fear about his mates into his golden years, right through to 1994. Barely five years before his passing, Arthur received a phone call from the brother of a navigator with whom he had flown. The brother's research on their plane, "E for Easy", had led him to war graves near Berlin.

Each of Arthur's mates from the night of 13 February 1945 were buried there.

Now Arthur knew.

To his passing in 1999, Arthur White Jnr bore no grudges. But he had one message. He said he could never forget the horrors of war and felt it just so important that younger generations of Australians come to understand this chapter in their own national history.

Lest we forget.



BRAVE PoW: World War II airman Arthur Millington White in his flying days and in later life, prior to his death on 19 June 1999 at age 82. Interestingly, just like his Dad, he served in two arms of the defence: in the Australian Army (17 May 1940-9 May 1943) and the RAAF (11 May 1943-14 January 1946) in WWII.

RAAF BASE WAGGA HAS A LONG AND RICH HISTORY

WHILST the RAAF celebrates 100 years of rich history in 2021, it is important to recognise RAAF Base Wagga shares 81 years of that history, being the only remaining operational base from a network of bases scattered across the Riverina during World War II.

Wagga Wagga was selected as a suitable Empire Air Training School location due to its climate, geography and accompanying infrastructure that included a road passing the site, joining the main Melbourne to Sydney (and Canberra) road and having a nearby railway siding.

Construction started in 1940 and by 1 July of that year, the basic infrastructure was in place for No. 2 Service Flying Training School (2SFTS) to start flying operations with Wirraways and Ansons.

Following its opening, the base was under the command of one of Air Force's most famous airmen, Wing Commander Frederick W Scherger.

Flying activities dominated the station in the first years of the war. When the focus switched to the Pacific Theatre, more units were raised or rotated through the station. They included No. 5 Operational Training Unit,

BEAUFIGHTERS: Bristol Beaufighter warplanes lined up on the airfield with RAAF fitters doing their daily inspections at the then RAAF Station Forest Hill, now RAAF Base Wagga, on 11 December 1942. Picture: Australian War Memorial.

the United States Army Air Corps 4th Air Depot, 70th Bombardment Squadron and No. 31 (Intruder) Squadron. Whilst all flying units had transferred out of the base by October 1943, 31SQN returned to RAAF Base Wagga in July 2010 and took over the duties of Base Support Unit. It is now known as 31SQN (City of Wagga Wagga).

The enduring legacy for the Base was created with the formation of No. 5 Aircraft Depot (5AD) on 23 March 1942.

The role of 5AD was to repair and service aircraft, receive newly built aircraft and prepare them for front line duties in the Pacific Theatre.

The massive resources required for the maintenance and engineering functions precipitated significant expansion of the station. Unique to this unit was the employment of women in trades, thereby freeing up men to deploy overseas.

5AD was disbanded in 1946, but the engineering facilities were an attraction for post-war engineering training, with the eventual formation of RAAF School of Technical Training.



*CONSTRUCTION: Construction of RAAF Station Forest Hill in early 1940.
Picture: RAAF Museum.*



This unit is acknowledged as the oldest continuous training unit within the RAAF and included No. 4 National Service Training Unit (1956 to July 1957) and the Air Force Apprentice Scheme from 1948 until 1993.

The success of post-war aviation trades training spurred a variety of other trade and job-related training activities on the base.

This included the Junior Equipment and Administration Training (eventually morphed into School of Administration and Logistics Training), No. 1 Recruit Training Unit from 1960-1964 (relocated back to Wagga in 2007) and, finally, professional education and promotion courses conducted at the School of Postgraduate Studies.

Staff and trainees of RAAF Base Wagga continue to serve their country and the Wagga Wagga community with distinction.

RAAF Base Wagga remains the largest ground training base in the Air Force, servicing not only the training needs of the RAAF, but also the Army and Navy and some regional defence forces.

As has been evident over the past 81 years and today, RAAF Base Wagga will continue to provide the training and skills that are the foundation of the Australian Defence Force's human capability well into the future.



FROM ABOVE (top): An aerial view of the RAAF Base in 1942.

PARADE GROUND (above): Air Force personnel on the parade ground.

ENTRY (left): The entrance to RAAF Base Wagga through which tens of thousands of young men and women have entered over the years on their way to military careers.



YERONG CREEK PLAYS ITS ROLE

THE honour rolls at Yerong Creek and the books recently written about Yerong Creek people serving their country during times of war contain many names, many more than you would expect from such a small community.

And amongst those names there are many who served with the Royal Australian Air Force, some with remarkable stories.

In World War I, 75 Yerong Creek men enlisted. Of these, 74 served in the Army and 17 were killed in action. There are 17 trees in the park at Yerong Creek, planted as a memorial to their sacrifice.

Flight Officer Thomas Edward (“Ted”) Gorman flew biplanes on the Western Front with the Royal Air Force. After the war he was a substantial farmer at Yerong Creek.

Of the 158 residents who enlisted in World War II, 27 served with the RAAF. Of these, six women served in the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force. Of the six servicemen from Yerong Creek who were killed in action in the war, three were in the RAAF and all three were gunners in bombers.

A son of a Yerong Creek third generation farming family, who cannot be named, continues to serve the nation and has fought in conflicts around the globe. His deployments include the Afghanistan conflict, co-ordinating airspace from Kandahar Airfield. He has been deployed as supplement crew on naval patrol boats conducting border security operations. Finally, he deployed to Iraq, facilitating close air support during combat operations against ISIS in the battle for Mosul.



ROLL OF HONOUR: The Yerong Creek honour board includes the names of Robert Johnstone, Doug Finlayson, the Le Gay Brereton brothers and their father, Geoff, who was described as Australia’s oldest recruit, enlisting in the Army at the age of 59 but telling recruiters he was 39.

THE GUNNERS OF YERONG CREEK

FOR a place the size of Yerong Creek to have three men trained to fight as gunners in bombers is unusual. But for all to be shot down with the loss of their whole crew gives us an idea of how risky this job was. Two served in Europe and one was shot down on his third mission over New Guinea.

Two of the gunners – Doug Finlayson and Robert Le Gay Brereton – were rear gunners and had exceptional records of courage, dedication and survival.

Doug Finlayson grew up on a farm just south of Yerong Creek and joined the RAAF in 1941, serving in Bomber Command with the Royal Air Force 199 Squadron in a crew of Australians, Englishmen and a Scotsman.



SUPREME SACRIFICE: Robert Le Gay (second left) with three of his Lancaster crew who perished. Five of the seven crew were Australians.

This crew completed their tour of 30 missions, an extraordinary achievement where most did not survive even 20 missions. Doug's job as a tail gunner was cold, isolated and very dangerous.

The RAF and RAAF bombed at night. The enemy fighters attacked from the rear and Doug's vigilance was a key to the survival of the whole crew. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for the courage and skill he demonstrated on two missions when German fighters attacked his bomber.

The crew signed on for a fatal second tour.

In August 1943 they were returning from a mission in their Stirling bomber having bombed German armament factories when they were shot down by a German fighter near Eindhoven in Holland with the loss of all crew. Doug had just been promoted to Warrant Officer and outranked all his crew, including the Australian pilot, his skipper. Doug and his crew had flown more than 40 missions, an extraordinary number in one of the most dangerous jobs of WWII.

Robert Le Gay Brereton grew up on a farm just north of Yerong Creek and attended Yerong Creek Primary School with his older brother, John.

John flew Kittyhawk fighters with 75 Squadron in the critical battle for Milne Bay in New Guinea and was promoted to Wing Commander by the end of the war.

Robert served in Bomber Command with RAAF 460 Squadron and was a rear gunner. He amazingly survived a tour of 30 missions with his crew in a Lancaster bomber.

But he rolled the dice and signed up for a second tour and flew just three missions with his new, inexperienced crew.

His last mission was a daylight raid in August 1944; his Lancaster reaching the target, a German V2 rocket site, but never returning to base.

When the bodies of two of Robert's crew washed up on the coast of Holland he was presumed to have died. He was aged 22.

The third Yerong Creek gunner to make the supreme sacrifice was also only 22 when he died – Robert James Johnstone.

Sergeant Johnstone's Hudson bomber was reported shot down by anti-aircraft fire during a strafing attack on a Japanese airfield at Timoeoka in Papua New Guinea on 3 April 1943.



MATES: Doug Finlayson (right) and wireless operator FSgt Frank Gee after Doug was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in 1943.

BAPTISM OF FIRE MARKS



CELEBRATION (above): Helping mark the Royal Australian Navy's 120th anniversary with, from left, Member for Wagga Wagga Dr Joe McGirr MP, Mayor of Wagga Wagga Councillor Greg Conkey OAM, Lieutenant Commander Bill Mikhail and Warrant Officer Trevor Johnstone.

FOR more than 13 years after it was formed, the then fledgling Royal Australian Navy sailed on peaceful waters.

But that all changed in dramatic and violent circumstance on 9 November 1914, just three months after the start of World War I, when HMAS *Sydney* encountered the German cruiser SMS *Emden* off the Cocos-Keeling Islands.

The *Sydney's*, and, indeed, the RAN's baptism of fire was a victorious one, driving the *Emden* ashore and destroying her.

It was a stirring scene: the rising sun glowing through the tall trees of Wagga Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens as members of the city's Navy base stood – strong and silent – at dutiful attention, their resplendent white uniforms magnificent in the backdrop of a still morning.

They were there for a historic flag-raising ceremony to mark the birth of the RAN on 1 March 2021, 120 years to the day Australia's Navy was created when the States transferred their naval and military forces to the Federal Government.

The flagpole used to raise the Australian White Ensign during the ceremony is a battle-damaged derrick from HMAS *Sydney*, which was glanced by a shell fired from the *Emden*.

The flagpole was officially unveiled on 11 November 1931 by then Mayor Edward Easter Collins and for 85 years stood proudly in the gardens before internal rotting forced its removal in 2016 for repairs. It was reinstalled in 2019.

In his address to mark the significant RAN anniversary, Senior Naval Officer at Wagga Wagga, Lieutenant Commander Bill Mikhail, said: "On this day we reflect on those courageous men and women, both past and present, that have served their nation with pride, sacrifice and devotion to ensure we can, and will, continue to fight and win at sea."

Lcdr Mikhail said of these men and women of the RAN, the most memorable individual was 18-year-old Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheehan – the first member of the RAN to have been awarded the Victoria Cross – for his heroic actions in protecting other crewmembers who had abandoned HMAS *Armada* which was sinking after being attacked by Japanese aircraft near Timor on 1 December 1942.

"Upon the command to abandon ship, he decided that manning his gun to defend his fellow shipmates from Japanese aircraft was more important than his own life, Lcdr Mikhail said.

"Although wounded in the chest and back, he shot down a Japanese bomber and kept other aircraft away from his shipmates in the water.

NAVY'S COMING OF AGE



“He was seen firing his guns as *Armidale* slipped below the waves.”

“It is through these historical events and many others on which we have modelled our values of excellence, integrity, courage, respect and service.”

Although Wagga Wagga is hundreds of kilometres from the nearest port, the city proudly hosts the RAN at RAAF Base Wagga. The city is the only inland regional Australian centre to be home to all three arms of the Australian Defence Force.

Indeed, Wagga Wagga has a proud naval history, including the service of HMAS *Wagga*, one of 60 minesweepers – commonly known as corvettes – built during World War II in Australian shipyards.

Laid down on 8 March 1942, HMAS *Wagga* was launched on 25 July 1942 by the Mayoress, Mrs Ethel Maude Gissing, and served in the Pacific Theatre. The warship served her nation until 28 October 1960.



Two seamen with links to Wagga Wagga went down with HMAS *Sydney (II)* when she was sunk during a mutually

CAKE CUTTING: Lieutenant Commander Mikbail cuts a cake with Seaman Jacinta Bradley.



CEREMONY: Members of the Royal Australian Navy face the HMAS Sydney derrick which serves as a flagpole in Wagga Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens.

destructive sea battle with the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran* off the West Australian coast on 19 November 1941.

Keith Andrew Joseph Bowes, a stoker born in Wagga Wagga on 9 June 1922, was just 19 years old when he gave his life in the defence of his country.

Wagga Wagga-born Clifford Leslie James Curtis was a Leading Wireman who signed on with the RAN at Dandenong in Victoria.

In future years when they reflect on their Navy careers, the young sailors who took part in the ceremony in the Victory Memorial Gardens can proudly say: I was in Wagga Wagga when we celebrated that 120 years.

TEMORA AIR FORCE CENTENARY SHOWCASE IN PICTURES

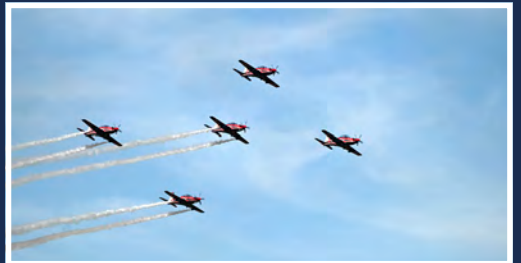


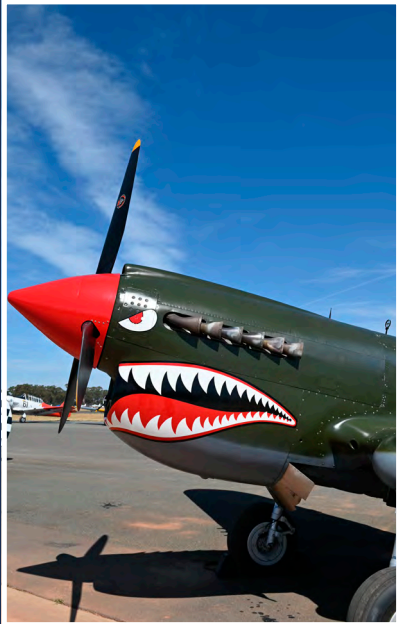
Temora Aerodrome was a hive of activity in March as it held its Air Force Centenary Showcase. The famous Roulettes enthralled the captivated crowd with their amazing aerobatics along with plenty of flying machines, past and present, to keep everyone entertained. The event coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Temora Aviation Museum.

Static and flying displays involving more than 50 aircraft drew aviation fans from throughout the Riverina and beyond. The thrilling show in a perfect blue sky captured the romance and historic value of our older flying machines whilst the modern warbirds demonstrated the power and futuristic technology which underpins our modern day RAAF.



AEROBATICS: The RAAF Roulette demonstration team at Temora Aviation Museum RAAF Centenary showcase, 6 March 2021. The Formation of seven Roulettes led by Squadron leader Jamie Braden and Flight Lieutenants Nathan Stankevicius, Daniel Barclay, Ben Hepworth, Lachie Hazeldine, Mark Keritz and Aimee Heal.





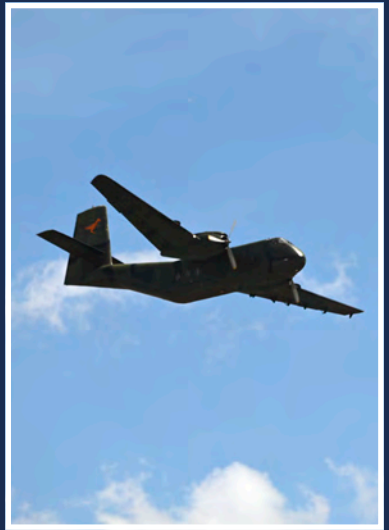
IN FULL FLIGHT (above four images): A Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk leads the formation of two Spitfires and a F-35A during the Temora Air Force Centenary Showcase 2021.

IMPRESSIVE (left): Supermarine Spitfire Mk VIII.

FLIGHT PATH (bottom left): Three Spitfires in formation.

LANDED (bottom): RAAF A58 Spitfire on the tarmac.





FINE DISPLAY: (top left) TBM Grumman Avenger (top right) RAAF DHC-4 Caribou (middle left) North American T28 Trojan and T-6G Texan (middle right and bottom) DH-82A Tiger Moth conducting aerial displays as part of the Temora Aviation Museum RAAF Centenary Showcase, 6 March 2021.

DESTINY DEALS DIFFERENT HANDS



THE fate of poor Flight Sergeant Francis Maloney has never been discovered.

Born at Coolamon on 1 August 1918, Maloney enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in Melbourne on 24 April 1942, aged 23.

A wireless/air gunner with 100 Squadron flying Beauforts in the Pacific Theatre on 22 May 1944, his aircraft, serial number A9-571, was shot down over Wewak, New Guinea, while conducting a bombing raid.

The official RAAF inquiry found: "Over the target, this Beaufort was hit by anti-aircraft fire and ditched into the sea in the vicinity of Wom Point. The crew deployed the life raft and paddled towards the shore".

The crew of four survived the crash landing and all might have even lived out the war and returned to loved ones but for the cruel actions of an on-shore Japanese machine gun crew, which fired on the Australians as they paddled to shore in a life raft.

The first burst killed the navigator, Louis Anderson, the second burst holed the life raft and the three remaining crew started to swim alongside. A third burst collapsed the raft and killed the pilot, Lyle McLaren, and wounded the second wireless/air gunner, Raymond Graetz.

"I was hit and the lobe of my right ear was shot away," sole survivor Graetz later told the inquiry.

"I started to swim away west from the fire. I last saw Flight Sergeant Maloney swimming seawards."

Maloney was never seen again.

FSgt Maloney is one of seven young Coolamon men who served in the RAAF in World War II and never came home.

His name is on the Coolamon War Memorial and the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour with Warrant Officer Ivan Leslie Baker, FSgt Kenneth Dyce, Flying Officer David Johnstone, FSgt Alfred Lewis, Sergeant Stanley (Joe) Marriage and FSgt Dennis Nest.

Warrant Officer Ivan Baker

The son of Frederick and Myrtle Baker, WOFF Baker enlisted in the RAAF on 2 January 1943 and following aircrew training as a wireless/air gunner joined the Royal Air Force's 179 Squadron in England as part of Coastal Command.

On 31 May 1945, just days after the end of the war, WOFF Baker was on a non-operational sortie when the Lancaster he was flying in was reported to have crashed into the sea.

Five of the crew were rescued, but sadly WOFF Baker was one of two crew members who were killed in the crash.

Flight Sergeant Kenneth Dyce

Born at Coolamon on 14 June 1921, the son of Colin and Alice Dyce, Kenneth was a farm hand who had attended Wagga Wagga High School (1934-38) before enlisting in the RAAF on 19 July 1941, less than a month after his 20th birthday.

A Flight Sergeant with 460 Squadron, Kenneth took off from RAF Binbrook in England on the night of 23 May 1943 to attack Dortmund in Germany.

FOR NINE OF COOLAMON'S FINEST



Alfred Lewis.



INSTRUCTOR: Flg-Off.
David Johnstone.



SHOT DOWN: Sgt Joe Marriage.



LOST: FSgt Dennis Nest.

Nothing was heard from the aircraft after take-off and it did not return to base.

After the war it was established FSgt Dyce's Lancaster crashed near Oud Schoonebeek in the Netherlands. The warplane's bomb aimer, FSgt Clarence Goldthorpe, was the sole survivor and was made a Prisoner of War.

He later reported: "The aircraft was attacked by a night fighter. The port engines and wing were on fire. Orders to abandon were given by gestures. The controls appeared damaged. Two bailed out at 18,000 feet. I landed near the German-Holland border and was handed over to the Germans. I was told later all the other six crew members were killed."

All the deceased crew were buried in the Oud Schoonebeek General Cemetery.

Flight Sergeant Alfred Lewis

FSgt Lewis was the pilot of a 75 Squadron Stirling Bomber which took off from RAF Newmarket on the night of 28-29 April 1943 as part of a 207-strong mine-laying operation, the largest mine-laying operation in one night of the whole war.

Some 22 aircraft from 75 Squadron were lost that night, with a total of 28 crew killed, including FSgt Lewis.

FSgt Lewis's plane was hit by marine flak when flying at just 330 metres. It is believed the aircraft was hit in the left inboard engine and along the fuselage and crashed into the sea about 300 metres from shore, exploding on impact.

FSgt Lewis was just 25 years old at the time of his death.

Flying Officer David Johnstone

Born on 16 June 1914, Flg-Off. David Johnstone enlisted in the RAAF five days after his 27th birthday.

On his way to England from Rhodesia, his ship was torpedoed and he spent 12 days in an open boat.

After arriving in England, Flg-Off. Johnstone flew operational missions against targets in Germany before becoming a flying instructor.

Flg-Off. Johnstone was instructing a trainee bomber pilot at RAF Harwell on 23 July 1943 when his aircraft, an Oxford, collided with another Oxford, killing both Flg-Off. Johnstone and his trainee and a crew member of the other aircraft.

Sergeant Stanley Joseph (Joe) Marriage

Sgt Marriage was aboard Lancaster DV 160 in 460 Squadron flying out of RAF Binbrook when it took off for a mission over occupied Europe on 14 June 1943.

Each mission Sgt Marriage flew on was full of danger – each crew member not knowing if they would make it back to base after yet another dangerous night sortie.

Sadly, that raid proved to be the one Sgt Marriage would have dreaded. His Lancaster was shot down by a German night fighter and crashed at Schwellingwoude, a north-eastern suburb of Amsterdam.

Sgt Marriage and his crewmates were buried in Amsterdam's New Eastern Cemetery.

continued ...

Flight Sergeant Dennis Nest

On 10 November 1943, FSgt Nest was aboard a Martin 187 Baltimore twin-engine light attack bomber when its crew spotted an invasion fleet of 14 landing craft escorted by seven planes off the coast of Italy.

The plane, which was out on a photogram reconnaissance mission, was shot down soon after with the loss of all four crew.

Made it home as decorated heroes

While the war took the lives of these brave young men, Arthur Doubleday, from Methul, and William (Bill) Brill, of Ganmain, survived the war as decorated heroes, having completed two tours as bomber pilots.

Their stories are told by Hank Nelson in the publication *From Wagga to Waddington: Australians in Bomber Command*.

Doubleday flew a total of 55 missions and Brill flew 58 missions.

Both were awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Flying Cross and Nelson's book delivers hair-raising stories of terrifying missions over Europe in Wellingtons and Lancasters, including Brill flying through the remnants of another Lancaster which had exploded in front of him.

CROSS (top right): The final resting place of Flying Officer David Johnstone in England.

HONOURED (below): Wing Commander Arthur Doubleday receives his Distinguished Service Order.



DSO, DFC and Mentioned in Despatches: Wing Commander Arthur Doubleday

DSO, DFC and Bar: Wing Commander Bill Brill.



EMPIRE AIR TRAINING SCHEME LEFT ITS MARK ON THE RIVERINA

AS HOSTILITIES increased across Europe in the 1930s, Australia was drawn inexorably into the turmoil of escalating conflict in the belief Australia's security was tied to Britain.

By mid-1939, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Rhodesia were formally approached by Britain to train and supply aircrew, such as pilots, air observers and air gunners to counter Adolf Hitler's aggression.

The resulting Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) became the most extensive and complex aircrew training network ever devised and Australia's contribution resulted in a massive 27,000 trained aircrew.

For its part, the Riverina and Central West made a significant and disproportionate contribution to EATS.

The Riverina was chosen because of its secure location inland, reasonable climate and proximity to the major capitals. Its flat topography made it ideally positioned for numerous airfields.

The network of bases, units and aircraft gave the Riverina a unique military character during the war and still provides a lasting affinity with Air Force to this day.

Cootamundra was the first Riverina town to commence EATS training with No. 1 Air Observers School.

The school started training on 29 April 1940. Other towns quickly followed, including Wagga Wagga, (1 July 1940), Narrandera (September 1940), Uranquinty (October 1941), Temora (May 1941), Parkes (1 November 1940) and Deniliquin (June 1941).



TRAINEE PILOTS (above): Pilots in training with No. 8 Elementary Flying Training School around 1942.



CLEAR SKIES: Beaufighters over the Riverina. Picture: RAAF Museum.

The effort and sacrifice of this training is poignantly remembered by numerous aircraft accidents and incidents attributed to all the schools over the five years of the scheme.

In total, Riverina towns have 141 war graves of airmen and airwomen who lost their lives whilst serving during 1939-1945.

The impact of these losses is powerfully surmised by Flight Lieutenant Chaplain K. B. Goodisson at the funeral of two such airmen, Leading Aircraftsman Allan Slayter, 19, and LAC George Christian Hale Wilkinson, 23, who died in an aircraft training accident near Harefield on 29 August 1941:

We know these men offered their services freely for the cause and did not count the cost. If that cost came more suddenly we know that God looks down and does not consider the sacrifice any the less. Although it is sad that these comrades have fallen before they had the opportunity of even entering into the contest they could not have done more for their country as they had offered their lives in the war and that was a total offering. (The Daily Advertiser 1 September 1941, Page 2)

ANZAC Day is a time not only to remember those airmen and airwomen who sacrificed all in the foreign battlefields, but also those who tragically died preparing for war within the Riverina.

A walk around your local military cemetery during the ANZAC commemorations will reveal the extent of tragedy and an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice which these brave airmen and airwomen made whilst seeking a way to serve their country.

LOST HIS LIFE (left): Leading Aircraftsman John Keith Douglas with his training aircraft at the No. 8 Elementary Flying Training School at Narrandera. He was killed near Munster, Germany, after attacking the Dortmund EMS Canal on 8 February 1945.

BERYLE AND RAAF SHARE AN IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY

WAGGA Wagga's Beryle Barton and the Royal Australian Air Force share a special milestone – both turn 100 years old this year.

Born on 20 April, 1921, Beryle joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) in early 1942.

Beryle wanted to join up to help with the war effort. There was a war on and she was young and fit enough to make a contribution.

Military service was in her blood, with her father a veteran of Gallipoli as well as the trenches of the Western Front in France.

The Air Force valued Beryle as a driver because of her knowledge of Sydney roads and as a result she remained in Sydney for her war-time service.

Her main posting was at De Havilland Aircraft Company offices in Hunter Street from where she drove the engineers all around Sydney for their important task of building the Mosquito combat aircraft.

Beryle was particularly inspired by the young test pilots. She recalls one occasion when three pilots flew off to test their aircraft and only one survived. That pilot was Brian "Black Jack" Walker, one of the RAAF's most famous fliers. Beryle attributes Black Jack's survival to his meticulous inspection of aircraft prior to flight.

Beryle learnt a lot about aircraft from engineers and officers whilst driving them around in her staff car. But all this was highly secretive and to this day she still cannot and will not openly talk about it.

Her most memorable driving task was when she had the privilege of driving Sir Geoffrey De Havilland to inspect the progress of the Mosquito construction effort in Australia which included a visit to the Officers' Mess at RAAF Richmond.

An enduring memory of the war for Beryle was working with the engineers at De Havilland. She found them very smart, dedicated to the cause and they listened to her. Unfortunately, when the war ended, Beryle could not join in the celebrations as she was in hospital. When she was well enough, she was discharged from the Air Force as her job was done.

End of war 75th anniversary medallions

Commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on 15 August 2020 was an opportunity for three Wagga Wagga former RAAF personnel to be presented with special medallions which were struck to mark the historic occasion.

Herbert Adams, Edna Thompson and Monro Preuss were presented with their medallions after a commemorative service in the Victory Memorial Gardens.

Bert Adams's role as air observer was essentially to do anything but fly the plane. This included air gunnery, bomb aiming and navigation.

Bert was one of 10,000 Australian airmen who served in Bomber Command. Bomber Command saw Australia's highest casualty rate of the Second World War with a staggering 3500 losing their lives.

But Bert was one of the fortunate ones, surviving 29 missions, though not without incident. On one occasion somewhere over Northern Germany his



DRIVER: Beryle Barton was a valued WAAAF driver.



MEDALLIONS: At the presentation of medallions to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, from left: Wagga RSL Sub-Branch president David Gardiner, Monro Preuss, Norman Jeffs (served with the 9th Division in Papua New Guinea), Edna Thompson, Bert Adams and Michael McCormack MP.

Lancaster, D-DOG, was lit up in search lights. This is usually a death sentence for aircraft and crew. The pilot immediately put the nose down and was twisting and turning out of the lights, spiralling out of control at 400 miles per hour (643km/h) until he gained perspective and applied the trim to stabilise the aircraft.

Following his discharge at war's end, Bert went back to farming, followed by jobs in retail and teaching. In 1965 he re-joined the RAAF, this time as an Education Officer and was posted to RAAF Base Wagga.

Edna Thompson was also a member of the WAAAF and was one of some 27,000 women who joined Australia's first military organisation established to allow women to serve.

Her basic training was at Penrith. Coming from a tough farming background, Edna didn't find the training particularly arduous, although while accommodated in relative luxury in new brick buildings, it was still tough having to sleep on straw-filled mattresses. Edna recalls her drill sergeant and how she had a voice you could hear streets away. Until this day, she still stands upright with her shoulders back! This disciplined training helped her to stay fit for life.

After recruit training it was a long train trip to Adelaide to No. 4 School of Technical Training. Here she was assessed and offered the role of pay clerk because she was good with figures. Then back to Sydney where she worked briefly at the Eastern Area HQ (in the Dymocks building) before her final posting to No. 2 Personnel Depot at Bradfield Park.

When the war ended, Edna had to return to look after the farm.

Phillip (Monro) Preuss joined the RAAF at Forbes in 1942. Monro joined the Air Force because he, like most young men at the time, thought it was his duty to join up to fight. A wireless mechanic, Monro's role ensured essential communication was always open between the aircraft and their Command Headquarters in order for the RAAF to undertake successful missions and operations.

Directly after the war, Monro left the Air Force due to a lack of internal opportunities and eventually was lucky enough to win a ballot for an ex-service block of land between Marrar and Old Junee.



HONOUR: The medallion struck to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

2021 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST

Service Times and Venues

ALECTOWN

6am Dawn Service at Memorial Hall.

ARDLETHAN (includes Beckom)

6am Dawn Service at the RSL Club Rooms, Deakin St, Beckom.

10.45am Assemble and march from Ardlethan Post Office, Yithan Street, to cenotaph, Memorial Hall, Ariaiah Street.

11am Service begins at cenotaph.

11.45am Bobby Chard Memorial Service at Ardlethan Cemetery.

ARIAH PARK (includes Quandary)

10.45am Assemble for march at Bowling Club, Coolamon Street, and march to cenotaph.

11am Service at cenotaph. Afterwards lunch will be served at the Bowling Club.

BARMEDMAN

10.30am Assemble and march along Queen Street to Soldiers Memorial Park.

11am Service at Soldiers Memorial Park. Refreshments to follow.

BENDICK MURRELL

9am Wreath-laying ceremony at Bendick Murrell Memorial Hall.

BETHUNGRA (includes Frampton, Illabo)

6.15am Dawn Service at Bethungra Memorial Park, Olympic Highway. Catafalque party may be in attendance. Wreath-laying ceremony.

BIMBI

2pm Wreath-laying at cenotaph.

BOGAN GATE

6am Dawn Service at the Monument, Hefton Street, followed by breakfast at Memorial Hall.

BRIBBAREE

3.45pm Assemble at Bowling Club and march to cenotaph (next to Briggaree Fire Shed).

4pm Memorial service at Briggaree Hall.

CANOWINDRA

6am Light up the Dawn from your own driveway.

CARAGABAL

4pm Service at the cenotaph, Mid Western Highway.

COLLINGULLIE

8am Service at Memorial Hall, Sturt Highway.

COOLAMON (includes Marrar)

6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Cowabbie Street.

7am Diggers Breakfast, hosted by the RSL, at the Coolamon Sport and Recreation Club.

10.45am Assemble outside RSL Memorial Museum, Loughnan Street, and march to cenotaph.

11am Main service.

COOTAMUNDRA

6am Dawn Service at cenotaph in Albert Park.

10.15am Assemble for march in front of Post Office.

10.30am Ceremonial march beginning at the front of the Post Office.

10.45am Commemoration service at Albert Park.

COWRA

5.50am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Brisbane Street.

9.30am Ceremony at Cowra War Cemetery.

10.20am March form up prior to community wreath-laying service on Brisbane Street.

11am Community service at River Park.

12noon Service at the Cowra Locomotive Depot.

CROWTHER

10am Wreath-laying ceremony at Crowther Memorial, Olympic Highway.

DARBYS FALLS

9.45am Assemble at Memorial, RFS Shed.

10am Memorial service.

EUGOWRA

10.45am March from the corner of North and Broad Streets to the cenotaph, Memorial Park.

11am Main service at cenotaph, Memorial Park.

FORBES (includes Bedgerabong, Corinella)

5.15am Assemble at Forbes Services Memorial Club, Templar Street, and march to cenotaph, Harold Street, followed by Dawn Service.

10.15am Assemble on Cross Street and march to cenotaph, Harold Street.

10.30am Main service.

2021 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

FOREST HILL

5.45am Ceremony begins at front gate RAAF Base Wagga, Sturt Highway. Please be in position by 5.45am.

GALONG

5.30am Dawn Service, Galong Memorial Hall, McMahon Street.

GANMAIN (includes Matong)

6am Dawn Service, Memorial Gate in front of Bowling Club, Waterview Street.

9.30am Assemble for march on corner of Ford and Waterview streets.

10am March proceeds to Memorial Gate.

10.30am Main service. Catafalque party will be in attendance along with a guest speaker.

5.30pm Retreat service at the flag pole inside the Memorial Gate.

GOOLOONG

6am Dawn Service at the Memorial Clubrooms. Gunfire breakfast to follow.

9.45am Assemble for march at Memorial Club Rooms.

10am Commence march, followed by ANZAC service at cenotaph in Recreation Memorial Park.

GREENETHORPE

7.30am Main Service at Soldiers' Memorial Hall including dedication of local serviceman to Wall of Honour.

GRENFELL

5.45am Dawn Service at cenotaph, corner of Burrangong Street and Mid Western Highway.

8am Pilgrimage to cemetery, depart from the Railway Hotel.

10.30am Assemble for march, western end of Main Street.

10.45am March commences and proceeds to cenotaph, Memorial Park.

11am Main service at cenotaph, Memorial Park, corner of Burrangong Street and Mid Western Highway.

1 May ANZAC Day commemorative dining in night – 6pm at the Grenfell Country Club, Gooloogong Road.

GUNDAGAI (includes Coolac, Mount Horeb)

6am Dawn Service at ANZAC Grove.

10.15am Assemble outside Lott's Family Hotel, Sheridan Street.

10.30am March will be led by the 7th Light Horse Troop followed by the Vintage Car Club vehicles carrying RSL members. Proceed East along Sheridan Street to cenotaph.

11am Wreath laying ceremony. On completion, the parade will return west along Sheridan Street, dismissing adjacent to Lott's Family Hotel.

HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH

6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Newson Park, corner Station and Albury streets, Harden.

10.30am Assemble in front of Mechanics Institute, Neill Street, Harden.

10.45am March to cenotaph.

11am Main service. If inclement weather, service to be held in Mechanics Institute.

HUMULA

10.15am Assemble for march at Humula Citizens Sports Club.

10.30am March to Humula Community Hall. Service to follow outside hall, followed by morning tea.

JUGIONG

3pm Assemble for march adjacent to police station and march to Memorial Gates, Riverside Drive, where the memorial service will be conducted. 7th Light Horse Gundagai Troop in attendance.

JUNEE (includes Illabo, Old Junee, Wantabadgery)

5.45am Dawn Service on Broadway.

10.35am March from Memorial Park, Peel Street, to Railway Square for two-minute ceremony. March finishes at cenotaph in Broadway and will be followed by the memorial service.

JUNEE REEFS

3pm Service and wreath-laying at Junee Reefs-Ivor Hall, Junee Reefs Road, conducted by Junee RSL Sub-Branch. Afternoon tea afterwards.

KAPOOKA (not open to public)

5.45am Dawn Service at the picnic grounds at the front gate of Blamey Barracks, Army Recruit Training Centre.

KOORAWATHA

5.30am Dawn Service at War Memorial Park Memorial Gates.

10.45am Assemble on Boorowa Street adjacent to Koorawatha Regional Rooms. March to Memorial Gates for memorial service.

continued ...

2021 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

LOCKHART

- 9am Commemoration service at Lockhart Lawn Cemetery.
- 10.15am Form up at Commercial Hotel, Green Street.
- 10.30am March to cenotaph on Hebden Street.
- 10.45am Wreath-laying ceremony.
- 11am Re-assemble and march to cnr Mathews and Green streets.

MANDURAMA

- 10am Service at World War II gates.

MIRROOL

- 9am Service at cenotaph on Ariaah Street, followed by morning tea.

MONTEAGLE

- 2pm Wreath-laying ceremony at Monteagle Memorial Hall.

MURRINGO

- 8.30am Assemble on Murringo Gap Road adjacent to Murringo Public School. March to Murringo Memorial Hall for service in hall grounds.

PARKES

- 5.30am Dawn Service at Memorial Hill followed by breakfast at Parkes Services & Citizens Club, Short Street.
- 8.15am Assemble for march in front of Parkes Services Club.
- 8.35am March commences led by Air Vice Marshall (Ret.) Leigh Gordon OAM OA.
- 9am ANZAC civic service at cenotaph, Cooke Park.
- 10.45am Pilgrimage and wreath-laying ceremony at war graves at Parkes Cemetery.
- 12noon Luncheon at Parkes Services & Citizens Club.

Winner of ANZAC biscuit competition to be announced.

- 5pm Retreat at cenotaph, Cooke Park.

PEAK HILL

- 6am Dawn Service at AIF Hall.
- 10.30am March.
- 11am Commemorative service at AIF Hall.

PLEASANT HILLS

- 9am Service at Memorial Hall, Ryan Street, followed by morning tea.

QUANDIALLA

- 10.45am School assembly at Blamey Park, Second Street, march to Memorial Hall.
- 11am Service at Memorial Hall, Second Street.

SPRINGDALE

- 9am Prayer and laying of wreaths at Springdale Memorial cenotaph on Burley Griffin Way. Introduction by Colonel Pat Thorne AM (Ret.), Michael Sinclair and Tom Shuttleworth.
- 9.15am Fly-over by Warbirds.
- 9.20am Lance Corporal Peter Kahlefeldt Scholarship Oration: Tribute to a Springdale local – Private William Pilon – presented by Liam Hillary. Musical interlude by the Springdale singers. Temora Band plays the Recessional including the Last Post. Concluding poem written by Earl Kotzur, a local farmer. Service to follow. Refreshments in the Springdale Hall afterwards.

STOCKINBINGAL

- 2pm Commemoration service at Memorial Site.

TALLIMBA

- 3pm March followed by commemorative service in the Tallimba Hall. Following the service afternoon tea will be available.

TARCUTTA

- 10.30am March from Tarcutta Rural Supplies to Memorial Hall.
- 11am Service at Memorial Hall, Sydney Street.

TEMORA (includes Reefton)

- 6am Dawn Service at cenotaph, Callaghan Park, Loftus Street.
- 11am Service at cenotaph, Callaghan Park.

THE ROCK

- 6am Dawn Service at Soldier Memorial, Urana Street.
- 10.30am Service at cenotaph, Urana Street.

TRUNDLE

- 10.30am Commemorative march.
- 11am Commemorative service at Memorial Hall.

TULLAMORE

- 11am Commemorative service at Memorial Park.

TUMBLONG

- 9am Service at memorial, St James's Anglican Church, Adelong Road. 7th Light Horse Gundagai Troop in attendance.

UNGARIE

- 6am Dawn Service, RSL Park, Ungarie Street.
- 11am ANZAC Day march and service at Memorial Park.
- 6pm Retreat at cenotaph.

URANQUINTY

- 9am Service at Wirraway Park rest area, Morgan Street.

2021 ANZAC DAY RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

WAGGA WAGGA

- 6am Dawn Service at the cenotaph (conducted by Legacy), 5.30am arrival.
- 10am Assemble for march at cnr Baylis, Morgan streets. COVID restrictions apply, participants must register with RSL Sub-Branch.
- 10.30am March along Baylis Street to cenotaph followed by wreath-laying service. RSL Sub-Branch recommends participants and spectators wear face masks.
- 11am Commemorative service, Victory Memorial Gardens. Attendees must register with the RSL Sub-Branch to comply with current restrictions. Numbers currently limited to 3000. Priority will be given to Veterans and their families, followed by Australian Defence Force and then general public.
- 5.30pm Sunset service, Wagga RSL Club Memorial at club entrance, Dobbs Street.

WALLEND BEEN

- 8.45am Assemble at Wallendbeen Public School and walk to cenotaph.
- 9am Main service followed by morning tea at Wallendbeen Memorial Hall.

WEST WYALONG (includes North Yalgogrin, Wamboyne, Weethalle)

- 6am Dawn Service at Services and Citizens' Club cenotaph.
- 10.15am Assemble for march on Main Street.
- 10.30am March to cenotaph at Services and Citizens' Club.
- 11am Main service.

WIRIMAH

- 8.30am Memorial service at Wirrimah Memorial Park, Smiths Road.

WOMBAT

- 6am Dawn Service followed by breakfast at Wombat Hotel.

WOODSTOCK

- 2.15pm Assemble for march on corner of Parkes and Carrington streets.
- 2.30pm March to Sr Jenny Kerr's Park to lay wreath and then to Arnold Bennett's Gates to lay wreath, then into Hall for ANZAC service.

WYALONG

- 8.45am March and wreath-laying ceremony at cenotaph at Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Neeld Street.

WYANGALA DAM

- 5.50am Dawn Service at Memorial outside of the Country Club.

YERONG CREEK

- 11am Service at Stanley Galvin Memorial Park cenotaph.

YOUNG

- 6am Dawn Service at Memorial Town Hall.
- 10.45am Main service at Anderson Park.

CAPITAL CITY SERVICES:

CANBERRA (Services are ticketed - tickets available from the Australian War Memorial)

- 3.30am First gates open.
- 5.30am Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial with readings from 4.30am.
- 7.30am Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ceremony, For Our Country Memorial, Sculpture

Gardens, Australian War Memorial Grounds.

- 9am Access gates open.
- 10.30am National ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

MELBOURNE

No decisions made at time of print. Please check: www.shrine.org.au/contact-shrine

SYDNEY

- 4.15am Dawn Service at the cenotaph on Martin Place (invitation only).
- 9am ANZAC Day march starting at intersection of Elizabeth Street and Martin Place, walking past the ANZAC Memorial at Hyde Park. (Veterans have to register to take part in the 5000-strong march). For current information visit: www.rslnsw.org.au
- 2pm Indigenous memorial service live-streamed on Facebook - Babana Aboriginal Men's Group.

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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Cathy and Roger Laughton
David Lavicka
David McCann
Wg-Cdr Tony Wennerbom



GRATEFUL FOR THEIR SACRIFICE

ON ANZAC Day I put up the Australian Flag in the middle of my paddock on my farm.

I don't think anyone in my family went to war but I love living on the farm and know that it was because of the brave men and women who went to war that I live in such a peaceful part of the Central West.

I am grateful for their sacrifice.

RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST WRITING AWARDS

MORE than 900 students submitted entries into the 2021 ANZAC writing competition – an amazing achievement by all involved.

The following pages contain some of the best writing in the competition's 11-year history and are deserving winners of book prizes, pictured above, from the Australian War Memorial. Congratulations to all of you.

Every student who submitted an entry will receive a signed commemorative certificate featuring a watermark image of the front page of this year's booklet, marking the centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force.

As is the convention in previous years, entries were categorised into primary and secondary schools with the Riverina electorate divided into North, South, East and West divisions.

Thank you to every student who put time and effort in to entering the competition. Thank you also to the teachers who encouraged their students to enter the competition.



NORTH

WHAT ANZAC DAY MEANS TO ME

I LIKE ANZAC Day because it reminds me what my Great Great Pop did to save me and Australia. The soldiers fought bravely in war. He didn't just fight for me he fought for my ancestors and the country.

Bogan Gate is a peaceful place so that's why they built the monument, which is a clock that stands in the middle of the street.

On ANZAC Day we gather at the monument at dawn to remember the soldiers who fought in the wars. We lay wreaths at the monument. Many people put wreaths at the monument in memory of the Bogan Gate people who lost their lives during the war.

The Country Women's Association, Red



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Amber Roach, 10, Year 5, Bogan Gate Public School.

Cross and other organisations as well as families who have lost family members lay their wreaths.

The Light Horse Brigade from Trundle comes to the Bogan Gate Dawn Service every year to remind us that horses were also important during the war.

I hope to see the Light Horse Brigade at Bogan Gate Dawn Service this year.



WINNER: Ciane Marks, 8, Year 3, Parkes East Public School.

I GOT A LETTER FROM HOME TODAY

I GOT a letter from home today,
It sent my mind oceans away.
Brought farm life, family and all my
mates near,
Away from mud and trenches, battle
and fear.

I got a letter from home today,
It seems that Aunt March has come to
stay.
A burden they call her, all sulk and
whine,
I call a burden carrying a dead mate
from the front line.

I got a letter from home today,
Happiness is plenty and tidings are gay.
My mate Tommo has found himself a
beauty of a wife,
Oh, why couldn't providence have given
me the good life?

I got a letter from home today,
Saturday morning on her deathbed,
there Ma lay.
It would've taken a deal for Daisy and
Tom to write,
I lay in the mud weeping half the night.

I got a letter from home today,
Nothing seems to be going our way.
The girls and young Jack have all died
of croup,
God, let me be shot by the next German
troop.

I got a letter from home today,
The bank's lost our money and
everything's astray.
The farm's going down, and Dad with
it too,
How I wish I was there to have pulled
us all through.

I got a letter
from home
today,
It sent my mind
oceans away.
Brought farm
life, family and
all my mates
near,
Now I'm back
to mud and
trenches, battle
and fear.



*WINNER: Chloe
Amery, 14, Year 8,
Parkes Christian School.*

STUDENTS HELP LIGHT UP THE DAWN

THIS year's writing entries contained the same passion and empathy from students in previous years, however, a recurring theme in this year had never been written about before – COVID-19.

Many of the students chose to add their experiences of how they commemorated ANZAC Day last year due to services being cancelled. It was heartening to read how students across the Riverina and Central West kept the ANZAC spirit alive by participating in the successful Light up the Dawn initiative to pay tribute to those close to them, who served their country, with great pride.

Primary schools submitted the most entries, with close to 660 entries across 35 primary schools, compared to nearly 240 from 12 high schools.

Red Bend Catholic College led the charge with the most high school entries with 68, whilst Parkes East Public School submitted an outstanding 151 entries.

These two schools helped the North division accumulate a total of 281 entries across nine schools, at an average of 31 entries per school which entered. But this number was overshadowed from the entries from the South division, with an impressive 320 entries across 16 schools – but this division's average was 20 entries per school.

THE MEN WHO LEFT FOR WAR

WE will remember all of them,
The men who went to war,
The husbands who left their families,
Memories which leave us sore.
The soldiers for Australia,
Men who fought for everyone,
Their lives sacrificed in battle,
While we're off having fun.

The worried wives and parents,
The scared sons and daughters,
All these people at home,
But their courage never falters.

So on the 25th of April
Every single year,
We will all come together,
And can't help but shed a tear.

Even in pandemic,
We will still remember,
Standing, candles lit,
From Sydney to Wilcannia.

On this day we march together,
To repay our country's debt,
We stand a minute's silence,
Lest We Forget.



*HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Madeleine Cannon, 15, Year 10,
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes.*

ANZAC DAY LIVES ON



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Winifred Hollis, 12, Year 6, Henschke Primary School.

Although last year all we could do was stand at the end of the driveway. I like to think that this year will be very short of dismay. I like to think about all the traditions coming back. But maybe COVID-19 will give us another smack. I hope next year celebrations will continue for all Aussie daughters and sons. But whether or not that happens, ANZAC Day lives on.

ANZAC POEM

MY ALARM buzzes loudly.
I hit the snooze.
I slump out of bed.
Stumble to my wardrobe.

Choose some clothes.
Select a candle.
Wait for dawn.
Stroll down the driveway.

Ignite the candle.
Switch on the radio.
The Last Post sounds.
Echoing throughout the street.

The fallen soldiers look at us from above.
Happy we remember them.
The street filled with candles.
Everyone remembering the ANZACs.

Extinguishing the candle.
The street dimming
Everyone walks inside.
As I walk inside, I remember them.



WINNER: Lewis Downing, 11, Year 6, Estella Public School.

ANZAC Day is important for Aussies all around.
When we all gather and hear the bugle's sound.
Every year I march and wear the medals of my great-grandpop.
But last year all the celebrations halted and came to a stop.
COVID-19 left misery across everyone's faces.

The germ spread around swiftly,
Attacking us like an army of knights with maces.

We couldn't do much last year apart from making treats.
When I bite into the golden syrup and oats of the biscuit I think that it's quite sweet.

I love ANZAC biscuits, they fill my heart with joy.
Whenever my Narnie makes them the deliciousness makes me think "Oh boy!"

Around the same time each year we learn about the war.
And how all the Aussie blokes came back home with more than just a measly sore.

ANZAC Ted is a book we read almost every year in school.
About all the amazing stories of heroes.
All the class is thinking, "Woah, that's quite cool!"

ANZAC DAY

I REMEMBER seeing the bombs falling on ANZAC Cove

I remember seeing people dropping to their knees

I wondered if I was ever going to see my family again

I wondered if I would ever make it out alive

I could hear the gunshots ringing in the distance

I felt the dirt and air blowing from the valley

After all these years

I now see young children wearing poppies

I see students laying wreaths at the Victory Memorial Gardens

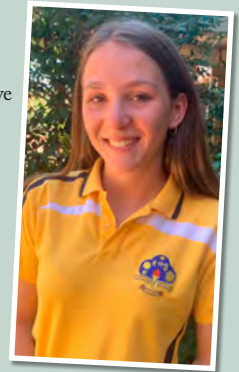
I smell fresh rosemary in the lady's jacket behind me

I feel sorry for the families who have lost their ones ...

the ones we couldn't bring home

I now hear the soothing bugle sounding the Last Post

I now wonder how I made it through the violent war at all.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Brianna Rapmund, 14, Year 9, Koorngal High School.

BOYS OF THE RIVERINA AND CENTRAL WEST

BOYS of the Riverina
Where have you gone?
Far away to Gallipoli
To fight a war already torn.

You were from Gundagai and Coolamon
And, of course, Wagga too
Locals of Wiradjuri
We will never forget you.

We will miss the fathers who went to war
The husbands who had left
Those men who were so brave
To fight for our freedom with unrest.

Henry Baylis, he came from Narrandera
He was a medic in France
He was of police descent
And you could see that in advance.

We also have Leslie Barrand
A simple, humble farmer
This army top shot soon went on
To become a respected Wagga Leader.

Let's not forget the ones who suffered
From pain and mortality
They gained many fatal wounds
Trying to defend their country valiantly.

William Rushton, who also served in France
A young man of only 26
Was in the battle for two years
And came back home, sick.

Francis Benson, from Wagga

Fought in the famous Gallipoli
But a bullet placed in his shoulder
Ended his service rapidly.

Enemies' uniforms brought destruction
Enemies' uniforms had brought death
Enemies' firearms brought blood
Enemies' firearms had brought tears.

Yet your beautiful hearts carried joy
They were filled with love and innocence
For although your burden was heavy
You flew through with joyous spirits.

And those spirits still linger on
In poppies that we wear
For ANZAC Day is time to remember
Why the Boys of the Central West were there.



*WINNER: Karin Rezkalla, 14, Year 9,
The Riverina Anglican College, Wagga Wagga.*

ON ANZAC DAY

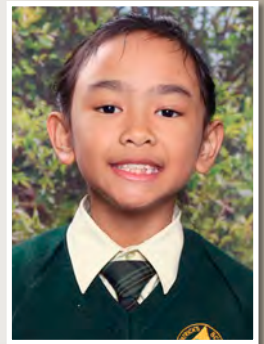
ON ANZAC Day, we remember all of our Australian soldiers who fought in the war.

On ANZAC Day, we thank all of the soldiers who risked, fought and served for us and our country. On ANZAC Day we make yummy ANZAC biscuits.

We should all celebrate ANZAC Day. It's both a sad and nice way to remember all those soldiers who fought for our rights and country.

If they didn't make those sacrifices, Australia wouldn't be the same today.

Thank You,
Lest We Forget.



*WINNER: Christyne Calub,
8, Year 3, St Patrick's Primary
School, Gundagai.*

EAST

THE FALLEN

AS WE remember those who went to war.
It leaves your heart, so sore.

I wish those who sacrificed were here,
Oh, how I miss them so dear.

Oh, we will never forget those brave soldiers,
Who carried Australia on their shoulders.

But those who left are still in our hearts,

The ANZACs,
played the biggest part.

And as we stand
at the memorial,
We all have to
stand tall.

And as we raise
the flag halfway,
We remember
that one
dreadful day...

Lest We Forget.



*HIGHLY
COMMENDED:
Thomas Gibson, 11,
Year 6, E A Southbee
Public School.*



THE DAY THAT THEY LEFT

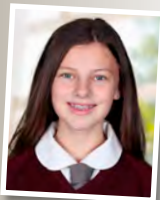
THE DAWN SERVICE

I SAW the soldiers marching, marching with pride. Their hair a little thinner and their faces worn from time. Green is worn all over, a slouch hat on top. Smiling faces fill the park including my old Pop.

Every year they march down, down this little street. I hear the thunder roaring underneath their feet. Millions of medals are worn – bronze, silver, gold Each of them earned from wars of old.

Before the sky shines, shines at 6am
I lay a wreath down, down at 6.10
I feel the warmth of the candle spreading through my palms
The Last Post is sounded to remember those who passed.

Flowers of red and black are worn throughout the crowd
To respect those who died on Gallipoli ground.
We all call them ANZACs, heroes they are to us
I wave goodbye as they march into dust.



HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Caitlin Brodbeck, 14, Year 9,
St Raphael's Catholic School,
Cowra.

STEEL-TOED boots tapping against the tar as they run
The beat of the music as they march in line
Proudly holding their slouch hat and gun
Flowing past the houses, leaving loved ones behind

They pull to a halt – fear hidden by a stern face
Not a single tear will we see from them
They stand tall, at attention, ready to brace
Mothers, wives, daughters – weeping over the loud drum

The boys stand, ready to depart
Alert to the cruelty of nature
Boots, uniform and pride in their heart
They stamp their feet as orders come from their Major

Convoys arrive and they jump in with speed
The trucks rumble off with defiance
Those left behind struggle as their hearts

bleed
Left only with memories and silence

Memories dwell for the families as loss gathers
Supporting each other amidst the agony
Husbands, sons and fathers

The day ends in silent prayer and reality

They are expected to stay alive
The pain that families suffer
At home, they work to survive
So the men can return to the homes to recover

For the day those courageous boys marched away
Was, and will forever be, commemorated
We remember the brave souls who fought and kept the enemy at bay
This is the enduring memory of the ANZAC legend.



WINNER:
Sarah Miller, 12, Year 7,
Hennessy Catholic College,
Young.

ANZACS SAVED US ALL

A LONG time ago the ANZACs saved us all and if it wasn't for them we wouldn't be here today in the Riverina.

Number: 60,000 fell in World War I.

Zero is the number of the ANZACs who should be forgotten because, think to yourself, if they didn't live to fight, we wouldn't live at all.

All Australians need to know that Australia and New Zealand are what they are today because of all the ANZACs who fought in war. They could have given up and went home but they didn't and chose to stay and save us.

Count all of the ANZACs who fought for us and think of how much impact they have made in both Australia and New Zealand.



HIGHLY COMMENDED:
Rhys Bischoff, 12, Year 6,
West Wyalong Public School.

LANDINGS AT GALLIPOLI

AFTER training for four months in Egypt we were going to see action, at least we think so, they still haven't told us where we're going. All we know is that we're going to Europe.

It's 0450 hours on 25th April, they say we're landing soon. They put us on small boats with our 101 rifles and send us out, thousands of us, all on boats. Our craft lands and we're moving up the beaches.

I can hear machine gun fire everywhere shredding apart my friends and brothers in arms. I take shelter behind a rock on the beach and try to get my stuff together. We are the first of four waves, we are supposed to bunker in further up the beaches so waves two, three and four can get cover when they land.

Four more months of gruelling fighting and the Turks want a truce to bury both sides' dead.

Our 101 rifles stood no chance against the Turks' machine guns, they shredded us.

After eight months of fighting, we decided the fighting at Gallipoli was pointless and we decided to leave, so two kerosene tins were placed one above the other, the top one full of water and the bottom one with the trigger string attached to it, empty.

At the last minute, small holes would be punched in the upper tin; water would trickle into the lower one, and the rifle would fire as soon as the lower tin had become heavy.



WINNER: Carus Gray, 11, Year 6, St Anne's Central School, Temora.

HOME

NATE stood in front of the old oak door, he struggled to believe that he was finally home after all the hell he'd been through.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Mitchell Dunstan, 13, Year 8, St Anne's Central School, Temora.

He was home, at last, home to see his wife and his two girls who he had missed so dearly. He took a deep breath in and out as he mustered the courage to knock. He could see his breath swirling in the frosty air as he breathed out. Nate finally decided to knock . . .

It had been weeks since Emma had heard from Nate. Every time Emily or Mia asked when their Dad was coming home, she would smile and make up a lie when on the inside she was crying. Emma had read about the war coming to an end in the local newspaper, but she never believed it. She tried to keep herself preoccupied with jobs around the house.

Nate knocked; Emma was startled to hear someone knocking on the door at this time in the morning. She opened the door to an unexpected sight. Emma jumped into Nate's arms through joy, after a few moments, they let go and Emily and Mia walked in. "Daddy," they screamed with delight. The family was finally reunited after years of being apart, at last, Nate was home.

THE ANZACS

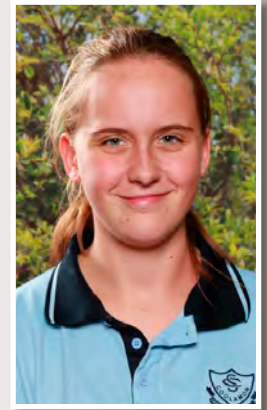
ON THE morning of the 25th of April 1915 Allied forces fought together in a bloody scene. Numerous deaths occurred on both sides. Friends were lost and pain was felt, many had died.

The arrival at Gallipoli, did not go to plan. The Turks were there and fought hand in hand. Fighting in the light of dawn. Can you hear the bugle horn?

Screams and shouts, filled the air. Tears falling down the uniform they wear. Bodies disfigured in a range of ways. Laying in an unpleasant random maze.

Comrades rose, and comrades fell. Thrown around like a mighty ocean swell. History was made. Everyone was afraid.

Courageous and smart. Pride of their country in their heart. Broken and bruised. With so much they cannot lose.



WINNER: Caitlin Neucom, 15, Year 10, Coolamon Central School.



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