



100
YEARS OF
ANZAC
THE SPIRIT LIVES
2014 - 2018



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

25th APRIL 2014





AWM MARKS CENTENARY

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

An easy drive from anywhere in the Gundagai, Tumbarumba or Tumut Shires, the AWM is one of the nation's greatest tourist attractions, with nearly a million visitors a year.

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

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

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



NATIONHOOD WON AT GALLIPOLI

GALLIPOLI, our opening foray in The Great War of 1914-18 – supposedly "The war to end all wars" – is widely considered the making of our nationhood.

ANZAC Day is our most significant national occasion – a day on which we stop and think about all those who bravely served in all wars.

Lately, the spotlight has been appropriately thrust on the fact 2014 marks the centenary of the start of the First World War with the countdown now very much on to that epic date – 25 April 2015.

Little did those brave souls who enthusiastically enlisted for The Great War know what lay in store for them ... the scale of the fighting, the horrors of trench warfare, the disease, the shell-shock – it was truly awful.

In those far-off days it would have initially seemed like some sort of grand adventure – a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel overseas – for many of the recruits who willingly went to do their duty "for God, King and Country".

Peace is something these days most of us largely take for granted even though we admire and appreciate what was done in the past on our behalf.

Over the decades, many selfless men and women have nobly and proudly worn the Australian uniform to defend our shores and the lands of others who uphold the



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

same beliefs, ideals and principles which have guided us well and which make our democratic society and way of life what they are today.

Lest We Forget – powerful words with an enduring message for all.

It is important ... absolutely essential ... that we always remember the sacrifices made so that we may now live free.

Michael McCormack
MICHAEL McCORMACK MP
Federal Member for Riverina

FROM KAPOOKA TO A VC

LIKE so many of his mates serving in Afghanistan, Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC MG (pictured) graduated from the Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka. In doing so he inherited the ANZAC spirit, pride, responsibility, role and tradition which come from earning and wearing the khaki uniform. Tasmanian-born Cpl Baird (whose name on the AWM Roll of Honour is shown at right) enlisted on 4 January 2000. He earned his VC for an act of valour and self-sacrifice as a Commando Team Commander in an attack at Ghawchak village, Uruzgan Province, on 22 June 2013.



COVER: Young Tumut Private Hillary Austin Pike, killed in action at the Battle of Lone Pine, Gallipoli, superimposed on a backdrop of red poppies at the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour. See feature article in the centre pages.

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GUNDAGAI GAVE MIGHTILY

FAR too many names with a cross beside them are inscribed on Gundagai's imposing main street war memorial which is dedicated to those who served in the World Wars, Korea and Vietnam.

Amongst those who never made it home from the 1939-45 conflict was Francis Albert Oliver Smith who died as a Prisoner of War not long before World War II ended.

The son of Thomas and Ethel and husband of Dorothy of South Gundagai, Private Smith enlisted on 26 March 1941.

He was one of more than 2000 Allies held in the infamous Sandakan PoW camp in North Borneo, having been transferred there from Singapore as a part of B Force.

The 1494 PoWs who comprised B Force were taken from Changi on 7 July 1942 on board the tramp ship *Ubi Maru*,

arriving in Sandakan Harbour 11 days later.

Pte Smith, aged 36 and one of dozens of locals captured by the Japanese, died from illness on 7 June 1945.

When the war was over there were about 30 Gundagai men in captivity but thankfully a good number returned, including brothers Jack and James ("Paddy") Heydon.

Sadly the town also mourned for 28-year-old Sgt Abbie McAlister, one of six brothers from Gundagai who had gone off to do their duty, who died in a PoW camp in Thailand, on 12 December 1943 as well as for Pte George Hutchings, 25, who died just eight days later on the Burma Railway.



PoW: Private Francis Smith



REMEMBERED: Francis Smith's name on Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour (top) and the Gundagai cenotaph (above), the foundation stone of which was laid on 24 May 1928 and which features the main picture on this page.



Parrandera
Oct 4. 1916

Officer in charge of Base Records
Melbourne

Dear Sir

My son Private
H. A. Pike of 2007 3rd Battalion was reported
missing some months can you give me any
information as to his fate.

If you have received any late information
I would like to hear it.

As my son has been missing over 12 months since he
was reported missing on 12th August 1916
I feel that he is dead & it is
very hard that I cannot hear anything
of my son who helped to keep his
Innocent Father & sister and two
other sisters

Address

I remain yours faithfully
A. Pike
East Street
Parrandera
P. S. Wales

CORRESPONDENCE
SECTION

OCT 6 1916

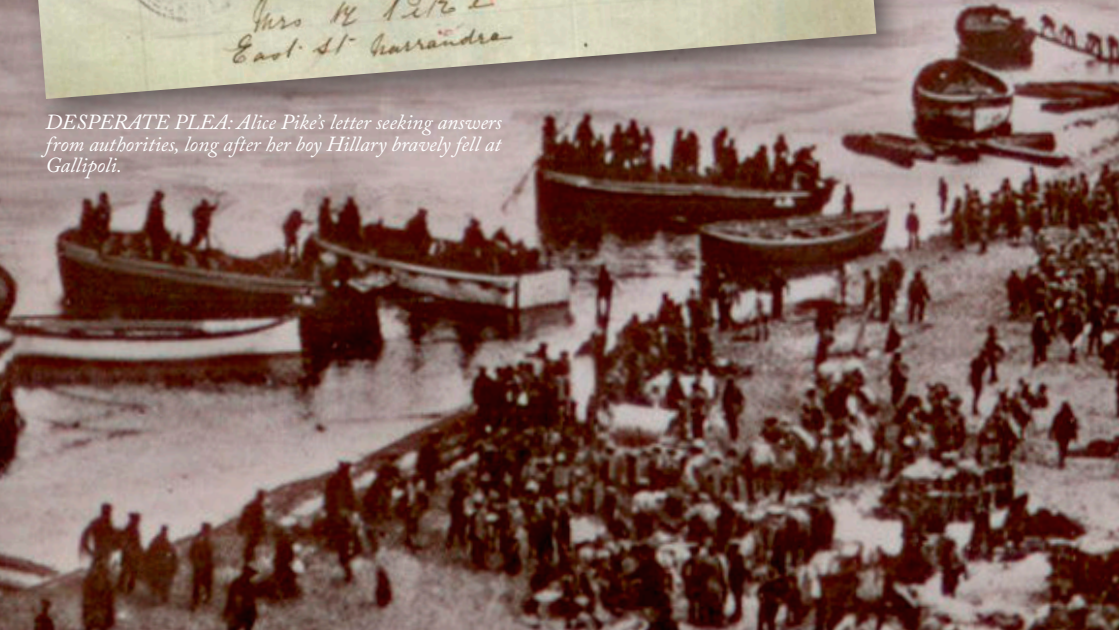
RECEIVED

17 4 10/16

Phone
6/10

Mrs H. Pike
East St Parrandera

DESPERATE PLEA: Alice Pike's letter seeking answers from authorities, long after her boy Hillary bravely fell at Gallipoli.



A mother aches for her Tumut son

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

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

Her correspondence held little hope for her poor boy: "I feel that he is dead."

By the time she put pen to paper the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps had already long deserted the Turkish Cove (shown in the background photograph on 25 April 1915) where our nationhood was forged yet at which so many of our finest fell.

Mrs Pike expressed her sorrow at not knowing Hillary's fate, especially as he had helped to support his father Robert and a sister, both invalids, as well as his two other sisters.

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

That was the time of the Battle of Lone Pine, a diversionary attack to draw Ottoman attention away

from the main assaults against Sari Bair, Chunuk Bair and Hill 971, which became known as the ANZACs' August Offensive.

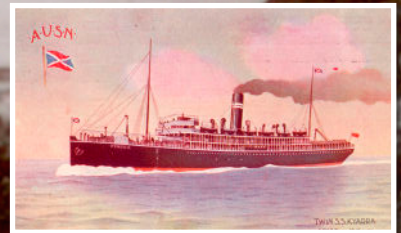
Australia suffered 2277 casualties at Lone Pine and seven Diggers earned Victoria Crosses, two posthumously.

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

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

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

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



TROOP SHIP: HMAT Kyarra A55, which took Hillary Pike to war.



IMMORTALISED: Hillary Pike's name on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour.

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TELL YOUR WAR STORY

BOUYED by the achievement of her first book *Gundagai Goes To War* in April 2010, author Rachel Murray (pictured) is looking to update the work with more biographies of local servicemen and women.

"There is so much history with those who served from Gundagai, Tumut, Adelong, Grahamstown and surrounds I felt compelled to put a book together so future generations have it as a record of just how significant the contribution was from this district," Rachel said.

Her first effort contained the personal histories of 88 locals and Rachel and her friend Lena Elphick are hoping more information and photographs come forward for the next publication.

Anyone wishing to submit words or pictures on behalf of their family should e-mail Rachel, who is a learning support officer at Gundagai High School, at: rmurray268@bigpond.com



TUMBARUMBA'S 'WHISPERING DEATH'

NOT only did Tumbarumba volunteer enthusiastically to assist Australia's World War II efforts, the town's name was carried proudly into the skies on a fighter plane.

Emblazoned across the nose of this Beaufighter 21 aircraft, serial number A8-250, was *Tumbarumba*, acknowledging the Snowy Mountains town which contributed so greatly in manpower and so many other ways – on the ground, in the air, at sea and on the home front.

This picture was taken at the Royal Australian Air Force base at Laverton, Victoria, on 25 June 1945 with *Tumbarumba* being home built, one of 365 by the Department of Aircraft Production (DAP).

"Fast, robust, and able to carry a wide and heavy range of armaments, the Bristol Beaufighter proved to be one of the most successful British-designed strike aircraft of the Second World War," according to the Australian War Memorial.

"Fitted with airborne interception radar from November 1940 onwards, it also proved a capable night fighter."

The first Beaufighters did not arrive in Australia until March 1942.

In the Asia-Pacific theatre of war the Beaufighter was nicknamed "Whispering Death" due to its quiet engines and heavy firepower.

The origin of this nickname is generally attributed to Japanese troops.

The Beaufighter was also operated by seven RAAF squadrons – 455 and 456 in Europe as well as 22, 30, 31, 92 and 93 in the South-West Pacific Area.

Squadron 456 operated the Beaufighter as a night-fighter, 455 in a specialised maritime strike configuration and the others as a general strike aircraft.

In total, 5584 Beaufighters were built between 1939 and 1946, including 365 built in Australia; 581 served with RAAF squadrons in Australia and the South-West Pacific.

Tumbarumba was "struck off" on 8 August 1949 with the last Australian Beaufighter retired from service in 1957.

SPECIFICATIONS

BRISTOL/DAP BEAUFIGHTER 21 (MK TF.X)

TYPE: Strike fighter

ENTERED SERVICE: 1944

CREW: 2

WING SPAN: 17.63m

LENGTH: 12.7m

WEIGHT (UNLADEN): 7076kg

CEILING: 5791m

ENDURANCE: Maximum range 2365km

SPEED: 515 km/h

ARMAMENT: 4 x 20-mm cannons, 4 x .5-in machine-guns, 907kg of bombs or 8 x 41kg rockets

2014 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

SNOWY MOUNTAINS: ADELONG

- 9.45am Pilgrimage to Adelong Cemetery to lay flowers on graves of recently deceased ex-servicemen and women.
- 10am Contingents assemble in front of Services and Citizens Club, Tumut Street.
- 10.45am Service at cenotaph in Memorial Park, corner Lynch and O'Neill Streets.
- 11am Wreath laying at cenotaph.
- 11.15am Combined service at Grahamstown-Shepardstown monument, Tumut Street.
- 11.45am Return to S&C Club.
- 12.30pm Lunch.

BATLOW

- 6am Dawn service at cenotaph, Memorial Park, Park Avenue.
- 3pm March leaves from RSL Club car park, proceeds to cenotaph. Followed by main service.

GUNDAGAI (Includes Coolac, Mount Horeb, Tumbalong)

- 6am Dawn service at ANZAC Grove.
- 10.30am Gather and march from Family Hotel, Sheridan Street.
- 11am Main service at cenotaph, top end of Sheridan Street.

NANGUS

- To be commemorated on Thursday 1 May.
- 10.30am Service at Public School, Hulong Street. Includes speeches by Gundagai RSL Sub-Branch and Kapooka Army Base representatives.

TALBINGO

- 6am Dawn service at Miles Franklin Park.

TUMBARUMBA (Includes Khancoban, Rosewood, Tooma)

- 6am Dawn service at District War Memorial, corner of Bridge and Winton Streets.
- 6.30am Cheese and biscuits at the Memorial Hall.
- 7am Travel to cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of ex-servicemen and women who have died during the past year.
- 10.30am March.
- 11am Main service at cenotaph.
- Noon Lunch at the Bowling Club,

Winton Street.

TUMBLONG

- 9am Service at memorial, Saint James's Anglican Church, Adelong Road.

TUMUT (Includes Brungle, Lacmalac)

- 6am Dawn service at cenotaph in Richmond Park, corner of Russell, Capper and Robertson Streets.
- 10.15am March leaves from front of the fire station.
- 10.30am Main service at cenotaph.

WAGGA WAGGA

- 5.45am Dawn service, Victory Memorial Gardens cenotaph.
- 6.45am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery, Koorungal Road.
- 10.30am Baylis Street march begins.
- 11am March concludes at cenotaph.
- 11.15am Wreath-laying and commemorative service.

WALWA, VICTORIA (Includes Jingellic)

- 10am Service, cenotaph in Walwa's main street (Murray River Road), followed by free lunch provided by Walwa-Jingellic Lions Club then two-up with proceeds to Legacy.

CAPITAL CITY SERVICES: CANBERRA

- 5.30am Dawn service at the Australian War Memorial.
- 6.30am Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ceremony, Aboriginal Memorial Plaque, Mt Ainslie.
- 10.15am National ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and Veterans' march.

SYDNEY

- 4.15am Dawn service, Martin Place cenotaph.
- 8.30am Wreath-laying ceremony at the cenotaph, Martin Place.
- 9am ANZAC Day march starting at Martin Place/George Street/Bathurst Street/Hyde Park.
- 12.30pm Commemorative service, ANZAC Memorial Park, Hyde Park South.
- 1.45pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day march in Redfern.
- 5pm Sunset service at the cenotaph, Martin Place.



CENTENARY WAR COINS

THE Royal Australian Mint, in partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Australian War Memorial, has produced a collection of superb commemorative coins which capture the history, service and sacrifice of Australians at war. A number of coins, some for currency and others to be uncirculated, will be struck to mark The Great War centenary. There will also be a unique \$5 fine silver proof triangular coin – Lest We Forget – (pictured) which will retail for \$85. For more information visit www.ramint.gov.au

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.



RIVERINA MARCHES ON

EVERY year on ANZAC Day,
When Autumn's halfway
through,
I think of the ANZAC
soldiers,
And all their hardships too.

I think of all their sacrifices,
In the name of freedom and
peace.
And all their bravery fighting,
So the "The war to end all
wars" may cease.

I think of all their pain,
And all their courage too,
For they faced their deepest
fears,
With horrendous conditions
too.

But most of all I think about,
How the ANZAC legend lives,
And the pride in the Riverina,
That thinking about it gives.

The legend speaks of courage,
Mateship and resourcefulness
too.

And their ability to have
humour,
Despite the adversity they
went through.

So this year on the hundredth
anniversary,
Of the start of World War
One,
I'll be marching down the
street,
Through rain or storm or sun.

And many in the Riverina,
Will be marching with me as
well,
For thinking of the ANZACs,
Makes our hearts swell.

ANZAC WRITING SUCCESS

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

The number easily exceeds that of previous years.

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

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

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

Winning entries from the Snowy Mountains feature on this page.



REMEMBER WITH PRIDE

ON ANZAC Day we remember them,
Those who gave their lives all those
brave men.

We take time to look back at the people
who died,
We march for them with love and pride.

We remember the people who gave their
lives,
They were shot by guns or stabbed by
knives.

Or killed by explosions and carried a
gun,
So that we could live in our country and
have some fun.

When we march down the street,
We can feel our feet dancing to the
band's beat.

We wave and smile at the people
watching us,

And I know the ANZAC centenary,
In my Riverina will be immense,
For the pride I see day to day,
Is anything but dense.

So this year on ANZAC Day,
When Autumn's halfway through,
My Riverina will be
marching down the
street,
And I will be there
too.

*Madeline Rusconi,
15, Year 10,
McAuley Catholic
Central School,
Tumut*



We remember the
ANZACs and their
trust.

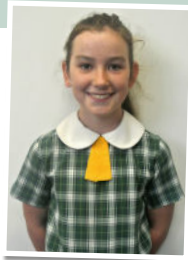
When we arrive at the
tall cenotaph,
We line up and rest
from our march.
We have a moment of
silence,
And think about all
the violence.

We lay wreaths in honour of those men,
Who saved us from the enemy.
We look at the men standing still,
And think about all those who were
killed.

Although I feel very proud,
I wish that they did not have to drop to
the ground.
We stand their watching and waiting for
them to speak,
But while that's happening I think of
those willing to seek.

As we march back up the street,
We are smiling proud of the ANZACs
who fought in the heat.
We think of those who we love,
While smiling like a white dove.

When we sit at home on our beds,
We think of those who were scared in
their heads.
I feel very proud of today,
Ninety-nine years later they are still in
their graves.
Lest we forget!



*Serena Petty,
11, Year 6,
Saint Patrick's
Primary School,
Gundagai*