



25TH APRIL 2012



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



PRIDE IN NASHOS

AUSTRALIA owes a debt of gratitude to our National Servicemen.

The region is home to many Nashos who answered their country's call, did their duty, and played their part.

Between 1951 and 1972 a total of 287,000 civilians, young Australian men, were called up in two separate schemes for compulsory training in the Air Force, Army and Navy.

National Service was a vital part of Australia's defence preparedness for three decades.

Sadly, 187 Nashos paid the ultimate price for their service and 1479 were wounded on active duty in Malaya, Vietnam and Borneo.

Nashos killed in action gave their tomorrows for our today.

The price of peace is a heavy debt for a country to pay and many Australians, many Nashos, have laid down their lives so that we can now enjoy the freedoms we have.

It was an honour to lay a wreath (cover picture) and speak at the National Servicemen's Day Remembrance Memorial Service at the Nasho monument (pictured above) in Wagga Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens on 12 February.

HIGH PRICE OF PEACE

ANYONE sent to war or those who have lived through one know all too well the hardships and sacrifices made.

All too often, all too sadly, brave military personnel make the ultimate sacrifice, falling in the line of duty.

Last year Australia mourned for 11 of its finest – the bravest of the brave – killed in Afghanistan.

These Diggers died in the pursuit of the noblest cause of all – peace.

Liberty has always been the highest ideal of the free world and Australia, upholding the principles of democracy, has always been at the ready when the call came to help others achieve what nowadays we often take for granted.

The families of the 32 killed since Australia joined Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in October 2001, in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks, have paid and continue to pay a heavy price. It is also a lonely price.

Their loved ones, mostly aged in their 20s, were taken too soon. Their names are an honour roll of heroes.

Their courageous colleagues, many of them who trained at Wagga Wagga's Air Force, Army or Navy bases, will diligently carry on the work, as our

mighty fighting men and women have always done, regardless of the firepower, numbers and tactics used against them.

It is the Australian way ... the ANZAC way.

On 25 April streets across the country, in capital cities and small country towns, will be lined once more as we pay solemn tribute to those who never made it back home, those who served and returned and those presently doing their duty in the most dangerous of situations.

Peace comes at a high cost – but it is worth it.

This booklet honours the ANZAC tradition and acknowledges our brave servicemen and women, past and present.

A list of ANZAC services is included as information for those able to commemorate our most important national day by attending a local march.

Michael McCormack

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Federal Member for Riverina



SIMPSON AND HIS DONKEY

ENGLISH-BORN John Simpson Kirkpatrick, better known as Jack Simpson, became a symbol of the unselfish courage and mateship of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs).



He and his donkey, called Duffy, made many trips up the steep gullies of Gallipoli to the firing line, finding wounded soldiers and bringing them to the beach medical station.

Private Simpson was an accidental hero, enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force so as to give himself a chance to get back to England; instead, he found himself at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915 and was killed less than four weeks later. He was just 22.

The venerated duo has been immortalised in bronze; sculptor Peter Corlett's statue of the pair being situated near the entrance of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, for all to see and admire.

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GALLIPOLI-BOUND: Kapooka musicians ready to strike a chord as part of Australia's ANZAC contingent are (from left) Musician David Leaders, Warrant Officer Class Two Ray Hingston, Corporal Melody Neilsen and Cpl Rob Broberg.

FOUR LOCALS TO STRIKE UP THE BAND AT GALLIPOLI

FOUR of Kapooka's finest musicians will make a memorable trip to Gallipoli to play at the 2012 ANZAC Day services, an honour one of them has described as the "privilege of a lifetime".

The gifted Australian Army Band Kapooka quartet comprises Corporal Rob Broberg, Warrant Officer Class Two Ray Hingston, Musician David Leaders and Cpl Melody Neilsen.

They will join fourteen other Australian Army Band Corps colleagues from around the nation, along with a contingent from Australia's Federation Guard at the Dawn Service on ANZAC Cove, the Lone Pine remembrance as well as at other events on the famed peninsula.

"It is such a marvellous opportunity and we are all very much looking forward to participating in the commemoration of a day which was the start of a campaign which helped make us the nation we are today," WO2 Hingston said.

"Gallipoli has such significance for all

Australians so to be asked to go there to perform has made us all feel so very humble and proud."

Cpl Broberg will be on electric bass guitar, WO2 Hingston clarinet, Musn Leaders trombone and Cpl Neilsen clarinet and vocals.

Other familiar faces travelling to Gallipoli for this year's tribute are Mjr Jeff Cocks, former Music Director and Officer Commanding of Australian Army Band Kapooka, accompanied by his wife Cpl Simone Dew whose wonderful and versatile voice pleased many Wagga Wagga audiences during their time here.

Mjr Cocks and Cpl Dew are both now based in Brisbane.

Kapooka supplied Bugler, Cpl David Matthews, for the Villers-Bretonneux observances last year, underlining both the exceptional wealth of talent which exists within the local Army Band and how fortunate the city is to have these extraordinary people in our community.

Republic of Korea, Wahn-Seong Jeong, helped unveil the monument, saying: "Korea is humbled to think of the sacrifice."

Among the large gathering was the last living Australian recipient of the original "Imperial" Victoria Cross, Keith Payne, 78.

OPENING: Proud Veterans and dignitaries gather around Wagga Wagga's new Korean War Memorial.



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

THE Army Recruit Training Centre has been served by a full-time Military Band since 1952.

Originally a brass band with 12 members, the unit has grown in both size and reputation and now boasts 25 full-time members, performing on brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.

Over the years the band has performed under several names, receiving its present title in 1992. The Australian Army Band Kapooka has a primary role of supporting the ARTC, however, it is the band's presence throughout the region which adds substantially to the entertainment, educational and cultural life of the Riverina.

Within the past decade, the band has deployed twice to East Timor, Solomon Islands, to Japan to perform as part of the Japan Self Defence Force Marching Festival, and in 2011, to Tonga for the King's Birthday Parade.

The Australian Army Band Kapooka is currently under the direction of Major Peter Thomas.



ABLAZE: Smoke billows skywards as oil tanks on Stokes Hill burn in this graphic original photograph of the Japanese bombing of Darwin.



ATTACK: Darwin is pounded by Japanese fighter planes.



WAR ZONE: Many buildings were destroyed by the bombing raids.



RUBBLE: A huge crater is about all which is left of the Postmaster's residence.

THE DAY WAR CAME TO OUR COUNTRY

THE heat of the battle was far too close for comfort for Riverina residents when the Japanese repeatedly bombed northern Australia in 1942-43.

Older members of the local community will remember all too chillingly how gripped by fear our country became after a series of devastating and deadly aerial raids during World War II.

The bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 was the first of 64 air raids on Darwin in a total of 97 air attacks on northern Australia in what were truly Australia's darkest days.

The attacks lasted through until 12 November 1943 when the last of the raids – on Parap, Adelaide River and Batchelor airfield – thankfully brought to an end a time of great distress and uncertainty for all Australians.

On 24 November 2011 the Federal Parliament appropriately declared 19 February as a Day of National Significance to be known as "Bombing of Darwin Day".

This was a fitting gesture as that grim day 70 years ago was a defining moment in Australia's history.

At 9.37am on that fateful day a missionary on Bathurst Island attempted to report a swarm of aircraft heading towards Darwin but his warning was discounted as it was thought he was mistakenly identifying American aircraft.

The first bombing wave began at 10am and lasted half an hour. A total of 242 Japanese aircraft peppered ships in Darwin's harbour and the town's two air strips.

The second sustained attack started just before midday and bombed the Royal Australian Air Force base for 20 minutes.

Evacuation of the women, children and older men who were not able to flee after the first round of raids took place later that afternoon.

The two raids resulted in the deaths of 252 Allied service personnel and civilians.

More aircraft were used and more tonnage of bombs dropped on Darwin than on Pearl Harbor on its day of infamy on 7 December 1941.

On 3 March 1942 Broome, in Western Australia, was strafed.

In the months to follow air attacks

were made on many towns in northern Australia including Wyndham, Port Hedland and Derby in Western Australia, Darwin and Katherine in the Northern Territory, Townsville and Mossman in Queensland and Horn Island in the Torres Strait.

While locals were understandably nervous and upset, Wagga Wagga and district stood ready to play its part in the defence of our nation.

As author Sherry Morris noted in her award-winning 1999 book *Wagga Wagga – A History*: "Wagga Wagga became almost a garrison town" during World War II.

RAAF bases were opened at Forest Hill in 1940 and Uranquinty in 1941, a permanent Army camp was established at Kapooka from mid-1942 and the Government set up a munitions factory which concentrated on the manufacture of fuses at the corner of Forsyth and Murray Streets.

A mere glance at the monuments in the Victory Memorial Gardens and the columns and columns of names of those from these parts who signed on to do their duty, is clear evidence of just what winning this war meant to local families.

Many of those brave enlistees did not return to their loved ones.

But the Allies prevailed and *The Daily Advertiser* editorial two days after the Bombing of Darwin headed "The Rising Sun will set" was rather prophetic.

A couple of editions later, the *Advertiser* commented: "Australia is now face to face with the supreme test of her destiny. Attacked with ferocity on her own shores, Australia's armed forces are now required, for the first time in her history, to drive out the invader. In many ways Australians have shown that they 'can take it'. There is no need for scepticism about Australia's willpower and ability to fight for the liberties of this fair land."

Australia stood strong. We were united. Victory in Europe on 7 May 1945 was momentous but an even greater relief was felt when VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day, also referred to as VJ (Victory over Japan) Day came on 15 August 1945, marking Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender. For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over.



How Wagga Wagga's newspaper reported the historic day and (below) dawn breaks at Bedford Memorial Park, Broome, where those killed in the Japanese attacks of 1942 are honoured as well as locals who have died in the service of their country in other conflicts.



DEFENCE CITY: A recent sunset at The Great War monument in Darwin, a city which has a long and proud record of military service to this nation.



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

26 LIVES LOST IN BLAST

THEY were among Australia's bravest and brightest.

Young men in their prime who had their lives suddenly and violently snuffed out in a single blinding flash of gellignite at the Kapooka Army training base on 21 May 1945.

It was week four of a 16-week training program, a time known as demolition week because the young trainee sappers would be taught how to set and detonate explosives.

Tragically, something went horribly wrong.

A massive explosion in the underground bunker killed 26.

Nineteen had to be identified by their identity discs.

Three days later half of Wagga Wagga's population – 7000 men, women and children – lined the streets to bow their heads as coffin after coffin passed en route to the War Cemetery where their well-kept graves are now among the 82 war burials (pictured below right).

It still ranks as the nation's largest military funeral and was truly the town's saddest day.

Despite the scale of the disaster, for decades afterwards little was ever said about it and nothing was done to commemorate the enormous sacrifice made.

Appropriately, a monument has now been placed near the site of the tragedy and an annual service is conducted to ensure the 26 souls are accorded a deserved, proper and respectful tribute.



SUNRISE: Dawn breaks, bedding first light on the Memorial site of Kapooka's 1945 underground bunker tragedy and the wreaths placed there at the 2011 commemoration.

2012 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT:

COOLAMON (Includes Marrar)

6am Dawn Service at Cenotaph in Cowabbie Street.

10.30am Ex-Servicemen and Women and all groups marching line up outside RSL Memorial Museum in Loughnan Street for Main Service.

FOREST HILL

6am Dawn Service at Royal Australian Air Force main gate.

GANMAIN (Includes Matong)

6am Dawn Service at Memorial Gate in Waterview Street.

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

11am Main service.

KAPOOKA

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

TARCUTTA (Includes Humula)

11am Service at Memorial Hall in Sydney Street.

URANQUINTY

9am Service at Cenotaph in Morgan Street.

WAGGA WAGGA

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

6.30am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery in Koorinal Road.

10.30am Baylis Street March begins.

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

TOP BRASS: Wagga Wagga's military base commanders (from left) Colonel David Hay (Army, Kapooka), Group Captain Tony Checker (Air Force, Forest Hill) and Lieutenant Commander Linton Lee (Navy) salute during the wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean Memorial Dedication Ceremony on 20 February 2012.

CAPITAL CITY SERVICES:

CANBERRA

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

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

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

SYDNEY

4.15am Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

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

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

12.30pm Commemorative Service at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park South.

1pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day March in Redfern.

5pm Sunset Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

PLEASE NOTE: All times and venues have been supplied in good faith by various RSL Sub-Branch officials and were correct at the time of publication. Every care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL Sub-Branch.



HUMULA HEARTBREAK

MICHAEL and Margaret Phelan of Humula suffered the anguish of losing two sons as The Great War cut a swathe through communities right across Australia.

A generation of the country's finest was lost after Australia answered the Empire's call and sent its most able-bodied men to fight in what was called "the war to end all wars".

Private Thomas Phelan, 29, died of meningitis at Goulburn on 7 July 1916, less than two months after enlisting.

Sergeant Michael Joseph Phelan, 30, sailed out of Sydney on HMAT *Euripides* on 2 November 1915 not knowing he would never again see his district's rolling green hills.

He was killed in action in France on 18 August 1918 and buried in Cerisy-Gailly Military Cemetery, eight kilometres (five miles) east of Corbie in the Somme.

Of the 64 names on Humula's honour board (pictured above), 13 did not survive the war.



*Josh Schroder, 13,
Year 8, Willans Hill
School.*

READY FOR ACTION

Soldiers are tough
Old war, it happened a long
time ago
Lives lost
Doctors help soldiers
Inside the tent doctors help
soldiers
Eat in the tent
Ready for war

SAD FOR LIVES LOST



I AM not
happy the people died.
I am proud of the people
who did fight.
I wish that the soldiers
didn't die.
I am sad for the soldiers who
have died.

*(Pictured above) Marcus
McKenzie, 11, Year 6, Willans
Hill School.*

STUDENTS SHOW ANZAC PRIDE

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

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

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

Book prizes will also be given to the best of the many entries received from Willans Hill School.

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



TEARS AS MATES MOURNED

IT WAS a brilliant and sunny day as Anna, her mother and her Granddad strolled down Baylis Street. They paused, soaking up the Sun's rays as they turned to view the spectacle of the march. Flags were fluttering, waving proudly as the Veterans marched past. Lines upon lines of them went past, each bearing their head high, some restricted to wheelchairs as age caught up to them.

"Why do some of them look so sad?" asked Anna, as she noticed a few tears in the crowd. She turned, and realised Granddad was also blinking back tears, emotions long shut away revealing themselves. "It's an emotional day," her mother replied. "They are remembering mates long passed on, experiences shared, bonds created and people left behind."

Anna thought about this silently as she hopped onto Granddad's lap. The wheels of her Granddad's wheelchair whispered like wind passing through the trees as they followed the march's progress to the Memorial Gardens. Her mother passed Granddad a handkerchief, drying his face of the tears trickling down his age-worn face.

They had assembled in the Victory Memorial Gardens, listening quietly to the speeches ringing out around the Memorial. The Eternal Flame flickered and danced around, lighting the names of the brave men and women who fought to protect the nation. The voices died out, replaced by the haunting peal of the bugle, as it played the Last Post. Men from the march silently stood to attention, and the immortal words echoed around the courtyard. "We will remember them."

(Pictured) Lachlan Wright, 17, Year 11, The Riverina Anglican College.



WE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

WE MEN with the poppy march through the fields
We men with the poppy march through the streets
We men with the poppy shout "Cooee!"
We men with the poppy battle for thee
With the wreath and rosemary
The lives that we save
We sacrifice ourselves for those who live
The battles we fight are for those with and without might
We fight for those to live in a free land
We leave you behind to remember us
We didn't hesitate; we jumped onto the shores of Gallipoli
To save your lives even though only one came back alive
We live within you only to show we are the men who let our lives go.



*Cody Abchow
(above), 10,
Year 5, Kapooka
Public School.*