

# SALUTE

Queensland Anzac Centenary 2014–2018 / ISSUE 2



First Anzac Day parade, Queen Street, Brisbane, 1916.

Cover: Rosemary.

Disclaimer and warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised this publication may contain the names and images of deceased persons.

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Members of 4th Australian Field Ambulance displaying their Christmas billies in January 1916. The men are wearing the lids on their heads.



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# A message from the committee



Welcome to the second issue of *Salute*. This follows on from the success of our first issue published in May 2016.

This issue highlights a number of the commemorative activities conducted across Queensland in 2016. A personal favourite of mine was the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day—now an annual national and international commemoration, which originated in Queensland thanks to the efforts of Canon David John Garland.

In this issue we also focus on more of our community grant projects. They play an important role in keeping the memory of our servicemen and women alive throughout the state.

The Anzac Centenary also embraces a ‘century of service’. In other words, it is more than just a commemoration of the First World War. While that conflict unquestionably deserves our attention, so do subsequent conflicts and operations. There were several notable commemorations during 2016 including the battles of Fromelles and Pozières on the Western Front, but we also turned our thoughts and reflections to other significant military anniversaries.

On 19 November 2016, we remembered the 645 Australians who lost their lives when HMAS *Sydney* was sunk following an engagement with the German raider HSK *Kormoran*. After 75 years, the loss of *Sydney* remains Australia’s worst naval tragedy.

We also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, when 108 young and mostly inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought for their lives, holding off an enemy force of up to 2500 North Vietnamese soldiers.

January 2016 marked 25 years since the First Gulf War. Operation Desert Storm commenced in Kuwait with a five-week air and naval bombardment followed by a swift ground assault in February 1991. It was dubbed the ‘100-hour war’.

June 2016 saw the repatriation of the remains of 33 Australian service personnel and dependents from cemeteries in Malaysia and Singapore, 25 of them casualties from the Vietnam War. A sombre occasion, but an important step towards providing closure for so many families and the ex-service community.

I would again like to thank the members of the Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary (QACCAC) for their commitment and enthusiasm over the last 12 months. They continue to play an important role in providing perspective, advice and working with stakeholders across Queensland.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Craig RAN'.

**Captain Andrew Craig RAN (Retired)**  
Chair, Queensland Advisory Committee  
for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary

# A message from the Premier



As we reached the mid-point of the 2014–2018 Anzac Centenary, 2016 gave us ample opportunity to pause and reflect on the extraordinary actions of Australian men and women during the First World War.

Throughout the year, we continued to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, with the same enthusiasm and momentum as we did when this project commenced.

The grassroots work of numerous not-for-profit organisations across the state continues to inspire me. Their commitment and hard work in researching and delivering commemorative events and projects have had a very real impact and brought immense pride to so many Queensland communities.

Changes to the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program in 2016 assisted in making funds more accessible for projects that commemorate the centenary of the First World War, or other significant military anniversaries of the past 100 years.

The Anzac Centenary grants program continues to grow, with over 235 community projects sharing in more than \$5.1 million to date. These projects are varied in style and nature and all help bring to life more of the long-lost histories of ordinary Queenslanders, their remarkable stories of service and sacrifice, and their unbreakable connection to the First World War.

In July 2016, we shone a light on the centenary of Australia’s participation in the many battles of the Western Front. The extraordinary bravery of more than 295,000 Australian soldiers in the most inhospitable of conditions in battles such as Fromelles, the Somme, Bullecourt, Messines, Passchendaele and Villers-Bretonneux, drew our attention, thoughts and tributes.

The numbers were staggering, with more Australian casualties in the first six weeks of the Western Front than the entire eight month Gallipoli campaign.

I encourage all Queenslanders to continue to learn and participate in the Anzac Centenary. From attending an event or exhibition, applying for a grant, discovering a personal connection to our military service, or just the simple act of having a conversation with family and friends—what we experience, learn and share during the Anzac Centenary period will help carry on the Anzac traditions and spirit we’re proud of for another 100 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anastacia'.

**Anastacia Palaszczuk MP**  
Premier of Queensland  
and Minister for the Arts

Images from the Western Front media campaign, which featured thought-provoking questions (top), Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG (centre) and the flame featuring the soldier's silhouette (bottom).

# Virtual vigil marks centenary of the Western Front

Mention the First World War and most people's thoughts turn to Gallipoli. Lesser known are the thousands more soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice on the Western Front.

Australia's involvement on the Western Front began on 19 July 1916 with the Battle of Fromelles, France. It became the worst day in our military history, with more than 5500 casualties sustained in just one night.

Overall, our losses on the Western Front were staggering, with more casualties in the first six weeks of fighting than in the entire eight months of the Gallipoli campaign. In all, Australian troops fought in 29 battles over 33 months.

The 2016 centenary of Australia's arrival on the Western Front was a chance to shine a light on the 295,000 Australians who served in battles such as Pozzières and Fromelles.

On 19 July 2016, one of Australia's most decorated war veterans, Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG, launched a two-week social media campaign to commemorate the 134,000 soldiers who were killed or injured. The centrepiece of the campaign was a virtual candlelight vigil using an animated flame featuring soldier silhouettes.

The vigil was an opportunity for thousands to take the time to stop, reflect and honour the Australian men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

The message reached more than 500,000 people and the complementary video, which asked a range of people what they knew about the Western Front, was shared almost 4000 times.

The virtual flame still burns online at [www.youtube.com/anzaccentenary](http://www.youtube.com/anzaccentenary)





Lindsay Bennett pays his respects at the Eternal Flame.

# A century of Anzac Day commemorations

At dawn on 25 April 2016, the annual commemorations of Australian military service and sacrifice began across Queensland, just as they had for many years. However, 2016 was a special year. With a renewed sense of pride, Anzac Day was commemorated for the 100th time.

The centenary of Anzac Day marks another significant moment in Queensland's history, for it was here that Anzac Day as we know it was born. In 1916, a year after the landing at Gallipoli, Brisbane's first Anzac Day commemoration started a movement that helped cement our new national identity and honour our close ties with New Zealand.

Anzac Day commemorations are observed in many countries including the United Kingdom and Turkey and link back to the formation of the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee (ADCC) in Brisbane in 1916. The ADCC's first Chairman, Thomas Augustine (TA) Ryan, and Secretary, Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Canon David John Garland, each played a pivotal role in the inception of Anzac Day.

As the First World War still raged in 1916, Ryan suggested the date of the Gallipoli landing should become the day for remembrance and reflection, while Garland devised an inclusive ceremony with a non-denominational structure for the day including the Ode, a minute's silence and the playing of the Last Post. This style of ceremony meant everyone could honour those who serve in our defence forces regardless of age, religion or cultural heritage.

Under the patronage of the then Queensland Governor, Ryan and Garland also sought to persuade other places in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to host their own commemorations in the fashion of Queensland's plans.



Anzac Day procession through the streets of Brisbane 1916.

It was not until the 1920s that the true scale of the First World War was understood, and the annual services became central to Australians understanding its impact.

While every state observed an Anzac Day public holiday by 1927, Ryan and Garland kept advocating until, in 1930, the Parliament of Australia officially legislated 25 April as a national day of commemoration. By the mid-1930s, all the rituals we now associate with the day, such as the marches, gunfire breakfasts and two-up games, were established. As the number of original First World War veterans dwindled and new generations came home from serving in conflicts around the world, the marches were opened to all veterans.

The tradition of the dawn service remains a strong feature of Anzac Day commemorations. Gathering quietly before sunrise in the half-light recalls the pre-dawn timing of the Gallipoli landing. It also reflects the Australian Army practice of 'stand to', where soldiers in defensive positions are woken before dawn so they are alert and have their weapons ready for a potential enemy attack.

To mark the Anzac Day centenary in 2016, the Canon Garland Memorial Society unveiled the *Canon Garland Memorial – ANZAC Day Origins*, a monument at the Kangaroo Point Cliffs Park featuring a bronze wreath of interwoven wattle and silver fern to symbolise the bond between Australia and New Zealand.

Queensland is experiencing ever-increasing attendance at Anzac Day commemorations with the Australian Defence Force, community, schools, veterans' organisations and thousands of volunteers donating their time and effort to deliver commemorative events and activities across the state.

The Anzac spirit continues to be alive in the hearts of Queenslanders, just as it began when the first Australian boots hit the foreign shores of Gallipoli in 1915.

# Queensland Anzac Centenary grant projects showcased to thousands

The thundering fly-past of Royal Australian Air Force Super Hornets and spectacular fireworks have always drawn crowds to the annual Riverfire spectacular at Brisbane's South Bank. On 24 September 2016, as crowds waited for the fireworks to begin, exhibits from Queensland Anzac Centenary grant recipients drew their attention with more than 5000 people browsing displays inside The Courier-Mail Piazza.

The Australian Army Flying Museum from the Darling Downs town of Oakey, one of the recipients being showcased, outlined its ambitious Anzac Centenary project to rebuild a Second World War Sopwith Camel aircraft while also displaying a modern classic 1972 Dodge one-ton truck, a crowd favourite.

Keeping with the transport theme, the Ipswich Friends of the Workshop Rail Museum intrigued visitors with the story of how Queensland's railway assisted with the First World War efforts. Regional councils from Logan, Moreton Bay and the Scenic Rim also exhibited videos, interactive applications and books filled with stories of local heroes.

As children made poppies and badges, and played century-old games such as blow football, hopscotch and quoits, SunnyKids engaged the younger generations hosting a reading nook called *Read 2 Remember*, reminding children of the courage and resilience of our servicemen and women.



Maddison, Kayla and Kirra Brady with paper poppies.

Meanwhile, the thought-provoking Boys' Brigade display reminded visitors that many young men who fought in the First World War were too young to legally fight. The project, carried out by 16 teenagers from the Pine Rivers area, delved into the lives and fortunes of young Australian boys and men who had enlisted to serve.

Boys' Brigade Officer Don Smith said the boys chose to research young men their own age. From his own university research into under-age soldiers, Mr Smith said the youngest Queensland soldier he discovered was aged 14 and four months, and the youngest Australian to enlist was 13 years and 11 months.

"The boys were impressed and a little shocked that someone their age could have done what they did in serving their country," Mr Smith said.

"We also found out that, because we were researching local soldiers from our area, from Samford out to Dayboro, many had come from farming families.



Lea Schuster and Irene Girsch-Danby from Scenic Rim Regional Council share their story *War Stories and Our Town*.



“What really intrigued us was that, if they did return home from the war, they returned to their farms and survived much better than those who had nowhere to go.”

The 16 boards of the Boys’ Brigade’s display were first exhibited at the Samford Museum in 2016 as part of Anzac Day commemorations. The project has since been adopted by other community organisations in Queensland.

Crowds at the Riverfire exhibition were also treated to a performance by the Queensland Services Heritage Band—each member dressed in full First World War uniform bringing to life the sounds of 100 years past, adding to a fun day for young and old.



Above top and bottom right: Members of the Queensland Services Heritage Band entertained the crowd.

Above: Josiah Self inside the 1972 Dodge.

Centre top: Grantees Karen Davis and Samara Frederikson from SunnyKids share their story.

Top right: Willow Watson enjoys an old-fashioned game of quoits.

# Queensland communities experience the Anzac spirit

During 2016, thousands of Queenslanders were able to better understand Australia's history of courage, service and sacrifice from the First World War to the present day, through an exceptional Australian Government exhibition.

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience (SACE), the flagship community event of the national Anzac Centenary program supported by the Australian Defence Force and the Australian War Memorial, visited Toowoomba, Brisbane, Mackay, Cairns and Townsville as part of its three-year, national tour.

Visitors to SACE toured 12 rooms to gain insights into Australian life at home a century ago as well as what it was like to enlist, sail to war, train in Egypt, battle in the trenches of the Western Front, and if lucky enough, to return home to a nation transformed.

A dedicated school travel bursary program, offered by the Queensland Government, provided an opportunity for an additional 2882 Queensland students from 67 schools from as far afield as Cooktown and Palm Island in the far north to Injune in South West Queensland to experience the exhibition. The six Injune State School students and their teacher used their grant to travel more than 450 kilometres to reach the Toowoomba exhibition.

While SACE delivered a national perspective of Australia's service, State Library of Queensland (SLQ) played a vital role, working with Queensland communities, museums, heritage groups and schools to conduct 21 white glove tours.

This helped to collect and curate stories with items of local interest to be included in a personalised community zone exhibition as part of SACE.

SACE may have only visited five Queensland cities, but groups and individuals from remote and regional areas of the state were not left out, with SLQ also offering travel bursaries for community groups to visit the exhibition. This initiative enabled an additional 410 Queenslanders to attend this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition.

In 2017, SACE will continue to travel through Victoria and New South Wales.

Those who have been unable to attend can still participate by leaving a message of remembrance for either an ancestor who served or to thank current servicemen and women at [www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/remembrance](http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/remembrance)

*"Our school, being remote off the coast of Queensland, offers limited opportunities for students to visit culturally significant learning experiences due to the travel costs associated with bringing a group to the mainland. SACE (was) an amazing opportunity for our students to be enriched by learning from past experiences about how our nation has played a part on the world stage."*

**Gary Recklies, Principal,  
St Michael's School, Palm Island**

*"The students enjoyed the hands-on experience of the exhibition and delving into the history of the First World War. Many of our students have booked to return to the exhibit over the holiday period."*

**Danielle de Redder, Teacher,  
Tamborine Mountain State High School**

*"Students enjoyed the experience of all the memories and videos of the Anzacs. It was heart-moving, emotional and sad. The experience handed out iPods to hear all the gunshots, stories, screams and explosions in all parts of the experience. This excursion cemented our students' understanding of the First World War, which was the unit we covered in term one."*

**Denis McCabe, Teacher,  
Clifton State High School**



Students from Blackwater State High School enjoying their visit to the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience.



Above and right: Action scenes from the Australian Outback Spectacular show, *Salute to the Light Horse – High Country Special*.



In the production, the cast members wear replica uniforms featuring emu plumes in their slouch hats, a tradition that started with Queensland mounted troops over 100 years ago.

## Charge of the Light Horse takes centre stage

One of the defining moments for Australia's light horsemen during the First World War was the charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade into the Turkish-occupied town of Beersheba in 1917 under heavy machine-gun fire.

In 2016, the Australian Outback Spectacular production company unveiled its latest production *Salute to the Light Horse – High Country Special*. The show is a fusion of drama, showmanship and daring horse-riding stunts. The show follows the First World War journey of the Australian Light Horsemen from their homes to the frontlines of battle in the Middle East.

*Salute to the Light Horse* has enchanted audiences with its blend of human tragedy, history and spectacle. It culminates in a recreation of the actions in which the mounted troops galloped into the Battle of Beersheba legend.

In one of the last grand cavalry charges ever seen on a battlefield, 800 riders sped across

6.5 kilometres of open desert under heavy fire to claim the town of Beersheba and its valuable supplies of fresh water—something the men and their horses hadn't seen for days. This victory proved key to opening the Allies' Middle East advance.

The charge was a success through a combination of audacity, surprise and bravery. The 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments were not equipped to fight from horseback, nor were they expected to ride across open plains that offered no cover.

When they did attack from across the desert, the expectation was that the men would dismount their horses and engage with rifles from a distance. To the enemy's complete disbelief, the brigade rode straight

into and over the trenches, bayonets in their hands and rifles slung across their backs, taking the Turkish forces completely by surprise.

The men of the two regiments relied on sheer bravery to advance into the enemy's guns for several minutes, who were ultimately unable to hold back the advancing Australian troops. The charge at Beersheba has been noted in history as one of Australia's greatest military achievements.

*Salute to the Light Horse* will run until October 2017 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba.

# A century of service

Since the start of the Boer War in 1899, more than one million Australian servicemen and women have stood side-by-side to defend our freedom and values in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. In fact, Australia played a part in sending the first group of United Nations (UN) military observers to Indonesia in 1947.

The Anzac Centenary provides the opportunity to honour all of our service personnel and commemorate the sacrifice made by generations of Australian servicemen and women.

Regardless of where and how they serve, today's members of the Australian Defence Force share the burden and privilege of the Anzac spirit. Through the Anzac Centenary, we remember them all.



John Macarthur, aka Stan the Ram.

## Battalion receives highest honour

A ceremonial honour awarded to the 8th/9th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment Association (Inc.) on 29 October 2016 included an unusual touch—the official retirement of its mascot, Stan the Ram.

Following a proud tradition within the unit dating back to 1970, a Merino ram called John 'Stan' Macarthur marched alongside 500 troops to receive the Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane.

The highest honour a city can bestow on the Australian Defence Force, the Freedom of Entry ceremony, included a 'challenge' followed by a march through the city streets with colours flying and military bands playing, ending with an inspection outside King George Square.

Stan the Ram was retired to greener pastures after the parade and another took his place, also named John 'Stan' Macarthur after the famous Australian settler and pastoralist.

## Crowds applaud returning soldiers

In 2015 and 2016, more than 1000 Australian Defence Force personnel were deployed to the Middle East in units known as Force Elements, led by Brisbane's 7th Combat Brigade.

On 17 September 2016, a Welcome Home Parade through the Brisbane CBD gave the community an opportunity to thank personnel for their service, including those who served in Operation Okra in Afghanistan, Operation Accordion in the Middle East region and Operation Highroad in Iraq.

One thousand uniformed servicemen and women, led by military bands, marched through the streets to the appreciative cheers of family, friends and well-wishers. Senior dignitaries joined the official welcoming party at King George Square on Adelaide Street, including Federal Minister for Defence Marise Payne, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell and Lord Mayor Graham Quirk. The parade concluded at the City Botanic Gardens where the RSL hosted a 'thank you' fun day for troops and their families.



Troops of the 7th Combat Brigade at the Welcome Home Parade.

# 100 years on we still remember

At an emotional service and wreath-laying ceremony on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Pozzières, both the fallen and those who returned from the Western Front were remembered.



Words written from the bloodied, muddy trenches of the Western Front were read aloud by a humbled son to a hushed and teary crowd gathered at the Shrine of Remembrance at Brisbane's Anzac Square.

David Toohey said his father, Gunner James Toohey, was only 19 when he enlisted in the First World War. The grandson of one of the first settlers of Brisbane, for whom Toohey Forest is named, entered the war as a telephonist. By the time he had finished serving in France and Belgium in the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, Reinforcement 14, he was an expert in semaphore, flags, Morse code, field telephones and switchboards.

His role was one few others wanted, running telephony wire through 'no man's land', from the battalion headquarters to the forward observation posts who reported back if artillery shells had hit their mark. When enemy fire broke the wire and communication was lost, he would be sent out again, ducking and weaving through bullets, shelling and land mines to lay more wire.



Left: Catafalque Party at the Shrine of Remembrance, July 2016.  
Top right: David Toohey (far left) with family members at the ceremony.  
Right: Chueh Shan.  
Far right: Janah Paseka.



Mr Toohey said his father rarely spoke of his war experiences. When he returned home and found employment as a postman, his focus was on marrying the love of his life, Norah and raising their 10 children.

“I think it was a pretty traumatic event that he endured,” Mr Toohey said.

“He had mates killed, blown to bits beside him.”

Mr Toohey, whose father passed away in 1964 aged 69, has since researched and retraced his father’s First World War travels through Europe.

“I loved my old dad and I’ve done all I can to understand his life over there,” he said.

“If only I could have been more understanding but I was so young when he passed away.”



Unusually for a mere private, James Toohey returned home a decorated soldier. He was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions near Merris in northern France.

On 28 June 1918, during heavy bombardment, he kept the lines of communication open for more than three hours. Through this heavy barrage he displayed great bravery and ability that did not go unnoticed.

“Without him, the operation wouldn’t have been a success,” Mr Toohey said.

“That’s what the commendation [for the Military Medal] said.”

James Toohey’s bravery has been an inspiration to his family. When his father died, David had just joined the 5th Field Regiment. Five of David’s six sons have since carried on the tradition, joining the Australian Defence Force, some seeing active service in Afghanistan, Israel and Syria.

The James Toohy Collection consisting of digitised diaries, photographs, medals, wallets, war service records, a newspaper clipping and army identity tags, can be viewed upon request by the public at the State Library of Queensland’s John Oxley Library.



Top: Band of the 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.  
Bottom: Chaplain John Dansie.

Centre: Uncle George Bostock.  
Bottom: Senior members of the Australian Defence Force pay their respects.



Soldier portrait of Gunner James Toohey ca 1916.

21 July 1917

*“Guns kept busy and Germans also bombarding. I was up at our observation post and fragments of shells were flying all around us.”*

22 July 1917

*“Heavy bombarding all day and night—it was like all hell let loose. Our infantry charged and captured the village of Pozieres.”*

23 July 1917

*“I was on the lookout when a shell burst just handy and a piece of high explosive struck my steel helmet and knocked it flying. There was intense fighting all day: the Germans striving hard to regain their lost ground, but our men were too good for them.”*

Extracts from Gunner James Toohey’s battlefield diary.

## Grants towards a growing legacy

For many dedicated Queenslanders, their passion and pride in our Anzac heritage drives a desire to commemorate and pay tribute to our past servicemen and women. Communities across Queensland are working to come together and organise special events, memorials and tributes during this special Anzac Centenary period.

These efforts have been recognised and supported over the past two years with funding opportunities through the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program. In 2016, this program was revised to ensure funding is accessible to more Queenslanders for projects focused on the First World War or that commemorate other significant military anniversaries.

As part of the revamped program, the new Spirit of Service grants program was announced, offering funding up to \$20,000 and accepts applications all year round.

The existing grants program, which offers funding from \$20,001 to \$80,000 and is open annually, was re-named Lasting Legacies and launched a new round in August 2016.

To date, 235 projects across the state have been undertaken with combined funding of more than \$5.1 million.

The Anzac Centenary grants program has so far proudly supported a diverse range of projects, including:

- historical research and education
- acquisition and preservation of stories, memorabilia and artefacts
- acquisition of memorabilia
- restoration or enhancement of memorials and honour boards
- memorial trails
- community research focusing on local men and women
- restoration of original stained glass windows
- applications for mobile devices
- digitisation of war records, diaries and letters
- public events for First World War and other significant military anniversaries
- re-enactments
- publications
- cultural performances and exhibitions
- plays and musicals.

The following pages highlight a collection of these grant projects as wonderful examples of how the Queensland community is keeping the Anzac spirit alive for the next 100 years.

# Following in the footsteps of returned soldiers

Twenty minutes north of Stanthorpe, the New England Highway leads to the beginning of Armistice Way.

Named after the 1918 battle, Amiens Road travels past the locations where railway sidings on the Cottonvale-Amiens branch line were named Pozières, Fleurbaix, Bapaume, Bullecourt, Passchendaele and Messines—all major battlefields of the Western Front where Australian troops fought and died. Together, these sidings formed part of the Pikedale Soldier Settlement Scheme, a national initiative where returned First World War soldiers were granted allotments of Crown land in regional Australia for farming.

Today, a three-year commemorative project is returning the significance of the scheme to the public eye, with the Amiens History Association publishing guides for walking, driving and cycling tours through the area.

While the railway line has long been removed and many of the sidings dismantled, the guides lead visitors to the remnants, making the area's history visible and meaningful.

Association treasurer Paula Boatfield said the guides helped to answer

the questions of people wondering what had happened to their relatives' land holdings and acknowledged the historic significance of the place names.

"Over the years, those places have lived with us and have become part of our neighbourhood," Mrs Boatfield said.

"Coming up to the centenary next year for the return of the soldiers in 1918 and 1919, we wanted to embark on some projects that provide a lasting legacy relating to that era."

After winning a ballot, each soldier settler was given a 55-acre block of land and training at an experimental farm to learn what produce could be sold to create an income.

"But it was a terribly harsh experience because we are the Queensland town that experiences climatic extremes from below zero temperatures, including the odd snowfall, to drought conditions," Mrs Boatfield said.

"Soldier settlers and their families lived in bark huts before they could

construct a permanent dwelling, so you can imagine what some of those winters were like."

Mrs Boatfield said the guides opened visitors' eyes to artefacts of the past hiding in plain sight.

"It's just exciting when you come across, in the middle of nowhere, some evidence of human habitation and we know it relates back to that era," she said.

"It includes things like fence lines, water holes and fence posts. Then there's things like wash tubs or pieces of machinery or the springs from the old sulky, or chimneys still standing.

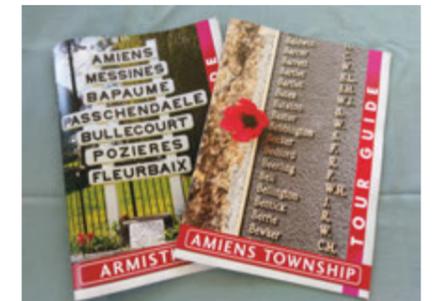
"When we find the granite rocks in lines, we know they were used for stairs or pathways or garden beds."

However, not all historic buildings are in disrepair. In the township of Amiens itself, where the settlement scheme was administered, the original buildings of the Amiens State School and St Denys Anglican Church are both still in active service.

Through a program of commemorative events and developing the tour guides launched in late 2016, the perseverance and sacrifice of the local servicemen and women is once again being honoured.

The association is planning further events to mark the Anzac Centenary and the centenary of the return of the soldiers. This includes re-enacting the visit of the Prince of Wales, who opened the Cottonvale-Amiens branch line in July 1920, renovating a heritage train carriage and relocating it to Amiens as a permanent memorial to the railway line, and publishing a book of black and white photos of remnants relating back to that era.

Association members are also working with Amiens State School to expand on their 75th anniversary book to include information and images from the past 25 years and to create a centenary book. All projects will culminate in a series of centenary events to be held in 2019–2020 involving the school, Amiens, Stanthorpe and wider Granite Belt communities.



Top: Members of the Amiens History Association at Bapaume railway siding.  
Bottom: Copies of the guide books.

The Armistice Way and Amiens Township tour guides, written by Amiens History Association president Roger Willis are available at [www.amiensqldhistory.com](http://www.amiensqldhistory.com)



Scenes from TheatreINQ's production of *Ginger Mick at Gallipoli*.



# Play celebrates the potential of every Australian

The larrikin, can-do spirit of the Anzac soldier was the focus of Townsville's professional theatre company, TheatreINQ, for two years.

*'Ev'ry feller is a gold mine if yeh take an' work 'im right...'*

*CJ Dennis, The Moods of Ginger Mick.*

*Ginger Mick at Gallipoli*, based on the works of poet CJ Dennis, tells the story of an Australian man named Mick going off to war. Dennis' poems, published weekly in *The Bulletin* during the First World War, played an important role in defining the identity and role of Australian servicemen.

TheatreINQ Artistic Director Terri Brabon said the poems were based on firsthand accounts of war experiences that soldiers shared with CJ Dennis and celebrated the ordinariness of a fictional character, Mick. She said staging the play

in Townsville coincided with local First World War commemorations and enabled it to have modern-day relevance to the many Australian Defence Force personnel based in the city.

"The original *Ginger Mick* works were written as if they were based on real letters and conversations from the Western Front," Ms Brabon said.

"In fact, a lot of what is contained in the poem and in the play did come from real life stories and experiences.

"Through our production, we tried to humanise the real experiences of the men at that time."

Ms Brabon said the 'everyman' character of *Ginger Mick* represented the 'gold mine' within average Australians who, when fighting for their country in the First World

War, 'lifted their game' and did remarkable things.

"The really important thing for CJ Dennis and what we were trying to get across was that the First World War united all tiers of society and created a sense of 'being Australian'. The fact that someone like *Ginger Mick* was promoted and became a leader, a good leader and gained the respect of people who wouldn't have looked twice at him back in Australia. But also that *Ginger Mick* recognises that members of the upper class who fought alongside him should also earn his respect. The war brought them together as Australians."

The theatre company received positive reviews for its seasons in Townsville in 2015 and 2016, and toured Cairns in 2015 and Charters Towers in 2016.



Janis Hanley proudly displays the silk postcards, the subject of e-book, *Dear Mother*.

# Loving legacy preserved for future generations

A decision to honour the work of Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum couple Harold and Billie Johnson has unearthed Queensland stories hidden by time.

Until ill-health forced them to retire a few years ago, Harold and Billie were stalwart volunteers establishing the museum collection. Through a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant, the museum has researched and opened two new exhibitions in Harold and Billie's honour, preserving the stories and artefacts they collected.

*From Gallipoli to Damascus* tells of the Light Horse service through displays, digital stories and an ancestry board, while *Dear Mother* is an exhibition of silk postcards written home by a soldier, Lance Corporal Jim Mitchell, from the First World War battlefields.

Curator Janis Hanley said the postcards were found on top of a cupboard in the museum, sparking local and archival research that eventually

formed an e-book accompanying *Dear Mother*.

"At first, we didn't know who Jim was or why the museum had the postcards," Ms Hanley said.

"A museum isn't just the objects but the people connected to them and their stories, and I was lucky enough to find out about Jim's story. It's fascinating to see the tendrils of connections and how far they go."

Through meticulous detective work, Ms Hanley discovered Lance Corporal Mitchell's siblings were founding students at the local state school and a well-known local park and road were both named after the Mitchells.

Little is known about Lance Corporal Mitchell following his return from the war but, through war records

and newspaper articles, it was discovered that his military career had an inglorious but fortunate beginning. He came down with mumps on the sea voyage to the front and in doing so, avoided the Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium, where many of his unit were killed.

Even so, like many soldiers during the war, State Archives and war records proved the stories Lance Corporal Mitchell told his mum in his postcards were very different to his real war experiences.

"Through the e-book, I was able to weave together the postcards with what was really happening to Lance Corporal Mitchell's unit and what he wrote in his diaries," Ms Hanley said.

Ms Hanley said the museum was delighted to complete the exhibitions

in preparation for the centenary of the Charge of Beersheba in October 2017, and to honour Harold and Billie's work.

"It was Harold and Billie who started the museum's collection, and Harold was the main driver of putting it together," she said.

"Running a small museum has so many responsibilities in terms of chasing funding, caring for historic objects, looking for artefacts and maintenance.

"In fact, Harold and Billie tirelessly worked here five days a week as volunteers for many years."

Today, regular bus and school tours bring more than 1000 visitors every year to the museum.

# Monto's living history emerges in film

Australia is a young country whose pioneering days lasted well into the 20th century. Often, it was the hard work and spirit of people returning from the First World War that opened new areas of Queensland. The North Burnett town of Monto, is one such place.

The stories of returned servicemen and women, held in living memory by their friends and descendants, were the focus for North Burnett Regional Council's Lauren Denman. Through a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant awarded to the council, this living legacy was captured for Monto.

"The grant was a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contribution of locals to the First World War," Ms Denman said.

Her research quickly found that while Monto's extraordinary rate of enlistment in the Second World War was well attested, there was very little on its contribution to the First World War because the town wasn't founded until 1924, six years after the Armistice. However, as many of the local pioneers were veterans, a quest to tell the story of Monto's First World War servicemen and women also meant telling the story of Monto itself.

Ms Denman said the goal of the project was to make something

relevant and engaging that new generations could find and experience.

"We wanted community ownership over the project," she said.

"We wanted these stories to be told by the descendants of these veterans, to be as authentic as possible for future generations, and as close to the real thing as you can get."

The first challenge was the research. As the town didn't exist at the time of the First World War, war service records were of little help. Instead, Ms Denman spoke directly with local historians and the Returned and Services League (RSL).

"We were relying on local knowledge and this research brought together a lot of different people and parts of the community," she said.

The result is a series of five mini-documentaries entitled *Local voices, living stories: Monto remembers its Anzacs*. The documentaries record the inspirational stories of six men who

proudly served in the First World War and came to call Monto home. The films depict how these men relied on the tenacity honed on the battlefield to tame the wild scrublands of Monto and establish the character of a whole new community. While each story draws on photographs, historical facts and service records, it is in the filmed recollections of the veterans' descendants that the living history emerges.

As a project by Monto, and for Monto, the North Burnett Regional Council specifically wanted to maximise community ownership. This was demonstrated, when, at the film's premiere on 16 April 2016, an audience of more than 100 people attended—not bad for a town of just over 1000. Many in the audience were families and friends of those profiled.

Because those who'd returned from the First World War rarely spoke of their experiences, the premiere revealed surprising family histories, and exposed the trauma some of their ancestors has experienced. Lance Corporal



Above: Drew and James Forsyth, with photo of Stanley Forsyth.

Left: Bob Bryans, holds a photo of Ted Bryans.

Edward 'Ted' Bryans was known by locals as a man with a stern, unflappable temperament. His family recalled after battling a bushfire one day, he uncharacteristically sat down with a haunted expression on his face. In hindsight, the film highlighted to the family, that most likely the burned-out land had taken him back to the horrors of the front.

"When you listen to the stories, you can tell that Anzac [spirit] is part of the Monto personality," Ms Denman said.

"The values of hard work, resilience, ingenuity and standing by your mates are easy to see in the community."

*Local voices, living stories* can be viewed free of charge at [www.northburnett.qld.gov.au/local-voices-living-stories](http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au/local-voices-living-stories)



# App digs deep to inspire

Thanks to a Moreton Bay Regional Council initiative, a storytelling app launched in 2015 has found an entertaining way to educate students and visitors about the First World War.

*Once Upon a War Time* links online resources to the national education curriculum for years 1, 2, 3 and 9, and was made possible thanks to a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant.

Drawing on extensive research by local libraries into the region's 800 service personnel in the First World War, the app uses a fictional digger—Will, an 18-year-old draftsman from Redcliffe—to highlight war experiences and link to library collections, memorabilia boxes and displays. Will also leads users through a tour of the region's war memorials and gives families the chance to share their stories.

Clinton Johnston, Local History Services Leader for the Moreton Bay Regional Council Libraries, said the council wanted to tell First World War stories in a way that was engaging but also rich in detail for researchers and schools.

"We wanted to also find a way to tell the individual stories of soldiers, so you can dive in, pull up a soldier and you have 100 to 200 words outlining what he did, who he served with and where he came from," Mr Johnston said.

"Local honour boards are included as well so you can navigate in and look at individual honour boards

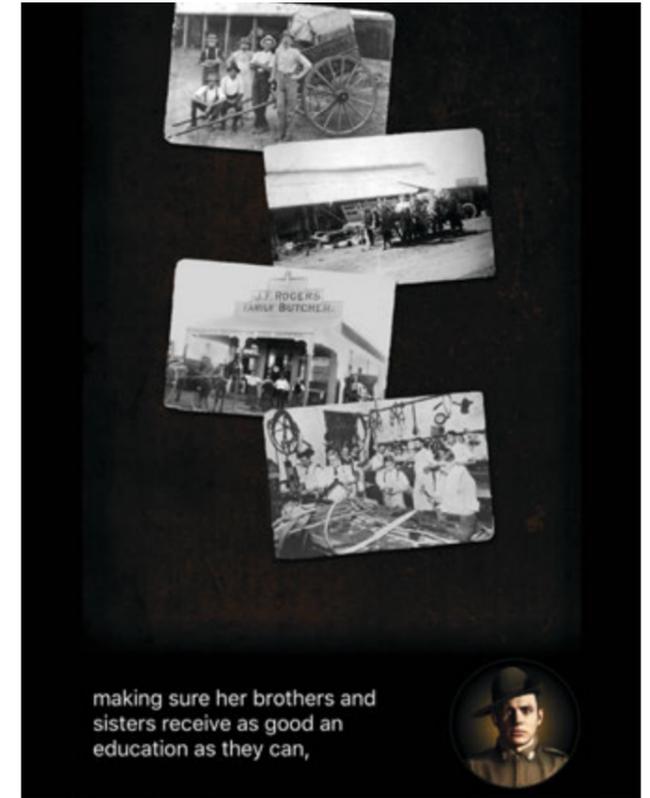
for specific suburbs, going deeper to find out what it meant for those soldiers and that community."

The app doesn't forget the other people whose lives were turned upside down by war. Characters include a casual labourer from Burpengary who enlists as a driver, and a young mother left behind in Strathpine to run the family farm alone.

"We know the First World War was more than simply stories about soldiers, it was the entire war effort," Mr Johnston said.

"Sometimes the stories from home get lost in history and we wanted to make sure they were told as well."

The app shows in intricate detail the uniform the first Australian troops wore and the weapons they used. While the details are factual, the fictional stories are packed with emotion, full of the Anzac characteristics of courage, integrity, resilience, mateship, teamwork, duty and sacrifice.



In addition to the app, the council's libraries have compiled a database of servicemen and women from the region and fact sheets about Aboriginal soldiers, women in the military and the story of a local family, the Munros. As uncovering history is a never-ending process, the app is tied to the council's database and can be updated when more information is found.

*Once Upon A War Time* was nominated for Overall Best App of 2015 in the Best Mobile App Awards. The free app can be downloaded for Apple and Android smartphones.

A tourist map has also been developed for people to discover some of the region's oldest memorials. Copies are available from Moreton Bay Regional Council libraries or can be downloaded from the council's website at [www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/ww1](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/ww1)



## The Anzac inspiration behind the Royal Flying Doctor Service

Many things we consider distinctly Australian emerged in the First World War. One such example is the iconic Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), inspired by an idea from Lieutenant Clifford Peel, a young Australian Flying Corps pilot and medical student who wrote to John Flynn, founder of the Australian Inland Mission.

Lieutenant Peel's letter set out in great detail how aircraft could be used to bring medical help to the remote settlers of the outback, and ultimately became the blueprint for the Royal Flying Doctor Service we know today. Sadly Lieutenant Peel never knew the impact his idea would have, as he was killed in action over France in 1918.

To tell this and other amazing stories of how the First World War would shape outback life, the John Flynn Place Museum in Cloncurry used a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant to overhaul and extend its exhibitions.

Historian Dr Judith McKay, who was the curator of the new exhibition, said finding a thread to link Flynn's work with the war experience was

not a challenge. The project team decided on the theme *Honouring Outback Heroes* as a way to focus on particular people.

"There was a lot of effort to make the project a reality," Dr McKay said.

"Contacting the relatives of the heroes we wanted to honour was quite tricky, as our search extended far beyond Queensland.

"However, whenever we contacted the relatives, they were absolutely thrilled and they gave us whatever historical material they could find."

Dr McKay said little research had been undertaken on men and women who had made a significant contribution to the outback and also served in the First World War.



Dr Judith McKay with the Honourable Tim Fischer AC who opened the exhibition, *Honouring Outback Heroes*.

"Yet the sorts of people willing to serve in wartime and put themselves at considerable risk, are often the same people who offer to serve in remote places in the outback," she said.

John Flynn Place also features three other outback heroes alongside Lieutenant Peel:

- Eric Donaldson, a pilot who fought over France and later joined the RFDS and Qantas Airways
- Sister Grace Francis, who served in the Australian Army Nursing Service and later established the Australian Inland Mission Hospital at Birdsville
- Reverend Jim Stevens, a pioneer of the Australian Inland Mission and later a chaplain at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

Once Dr McKay had these four remarkable people as her focus, she worked with ToadShow, the same firm that developed the museum's original exhibition in 1988, to produce modern screen-based exhibits to present their stories.

"We really wanted interactive exhibits, as that is what people want these days," she said.

"They expect to be able to choose what they see, be challenged and follow their particular interests.

"Using contemporary display technologies is also quite in keeping with John Flynn, who used the latest technologies of his time—airplanes and radio—to fulfill his vision."

The new exhibitions were officially opened on 15 April 2015 by former

Deputy Prime Minister the Honourable Tim Fischer AC at a gathering attended by many of the descendants of the *Honouring Outback Heroes* featured.

The upgrade was a considerable undertaking for a regional museum 770 kilometres west of Townsville. The support from local people and the far-flung relatives of the outback heroes led to the exhibition winning a gold award for heritage interpretation in the 2015 National Trust Heritage Awards for Queensland.

# Returning soldiers discover a new battlefield

Like many of the other 866 soldier settlement schemes nationwide, Queensland's largest settlement, near Stanthorpe, was well intentioned, but doomed to fail.



Lorene Long and Janine Breen from the Stanthorpe Museum.

*Soldier Settlers of the Granite Belt: The Pikedale Soldier Settlement Scheme* was published in 2015 by the Stanthorpe Museum with support from a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant. The 256-page book has been meticulously researched and uses social and oral history as well as reference material to debunk the myth that returning soldiers were given generous hand-outs.

Across the 259,729 acres allocated through the Pikedale scheme, shell-shocked First World War troops began a new battle against frost, snow, isolation and drought. Their promised blocks were each too small to yield sufficient crops, the soil too rocky and conditions too harsh for them to successfully build new lives. The elements and the land were not their only enemy, with each settler

also battling at least 13 federal and state government departments and committees, with rules even restricting where certain fruit trees could be planted.

Museum secretary and author Lorene Long, who researched the book over seven years, said she began the project assuming she would find positive stories.

"I thought it would be all rosy but it wasn't," Mrs Long said.

Mrs Long discovered the soldier settlers and their families endured great suffering. In one case, a bush nurse attending a birth on one of the most remote lots reported there was simply no food in the house for her to prepare a meal for the new mother.

"It was a fascinating journey of discovery but I became very upset towards the end because I discovered, in particular, what the women had gone through," she said.

"Imagine a lady out in the middle of nowhere, in a bark hut with no neighbours, no real road, no transport other than a horse, and a new baby with creek water and a copper [washing pot] to boil the nappies.

"I'm not sure that's what her husband intended for her when he found himself a soldier settler—he would have thought his hardship had finished.

"It's important we remember what they went through because they built much of this district through their own blood, sweat and tears."

Research for the book showed most soldiers, saddled with exorbitant mortgages and running costs, eventually abandoned their lots. By 1937, only 25 of the original 1000 or so Pikedale settlers remained. The others were driven away by repeated setbacks, including failed crops and untenable interest repayments.

Those farming families who did persist however, ended up succeeding in building both a community and the economic success of the Stanthorpe area, which is now one of the most productive of the Granite Belt.

"We owe a debt to these people," Mrs Long said.

Supporting the book's publication is a display at Stanthorpe Museum,

which showcases the soldier settlers' resourcefulness and is dedicated to their memory. The display shows the returned soldiers were driven by need for ingenuity, fashioning farm implements, household furniture and even kitchenware from locally available materials.

Mrs Long said visitors to the display have since provided oral history that supports her research.

"After we published the book, families came in and told us how children were taken from one couple to a home in Toowoomba because they couldn't afford to feed them," she said.

"The oral history confirms the sad truth of what we learned along the way."



Far left: Tablelands Regional Council Mayor Joe Paronella explains the Anzac History Trail to locals.

Left: The Atherton War Memorial is one of the many sites on the trail.

## Tale of the whole Tablelands

Most Queensland towns have a war memorial on the main street that visitors view with curiosity and respect, but without knowing how each connects to the region or the events that shaped Queensland, or the world.

With an unusual depth and diversity of historical sites in their district, Tablelands Regional Council Mayor Joe Paronella said the community wanted to tell the full story of the area's legacy of service by connecting some 60 historical attractions into the *Tablelands Anzac Trail*.

"We have strong military ties in our region, with diverse symbolism representative of the legacy our communities made to the First World War," Councillor Paronella said.

"The *Tablelands Anzac Trail* itself is an acknowledgment of the many different memorials across the region."

The council sought a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant to achieve the extensive project, bringing the area's sites into one overarching 'tour' ready to launch on Anzac Day 2015. It involved a great deal of research, design and development, working with local heritage consultant Gordon Grimwade as well as extensive liaison with historical

societies and the Returned and Services League (RSL).

Today, as visitors follow the *Tablelands Anzac Trail*, Cr Paronella said people 'choose their own adventure', visiting the sites that interest them. With each stop, visitors develop a greater understanding of the district and its deep connections to the beginning and end of the First World War, plus local stories of courage and hardship.

As well as the expected monuments and cemeteries, the *Tablelands*

*Anzac Trail* takes in more unusual sites including hospitals, a Chinese temple, an abandoned mine and even a bird-watching hide.

Each place adds new insights into how the First World War shaped the area, such as the soldier settlements that followed the war and established the farming and grazing land that is now central to the district's economy today.

The trail, available both as a brochure and an online resource, was launched at a moving

'100 Dawns' memorial event on Anzac Day 2015 at the Herberton Cemetery, where Padre White, a founder of the dawn services that are observed today, is buried.

Since its launch, thousands of visitors have explored the Tablelands region with an added sense of meaning. They are not just sightseeing, they are honouring the sacrifices of a century ago.

Download the brochure and find out more about the trail at [www.trc.qld.gov.au/lifestyle-leisure/anzactrail](http://www.trc.qld.gov.au/lifestyle-leisure/anzactrail)

# The forgotten Ukrainian Anzacs

‘Lest we forget’ are the solemn words used in Anzac Day commemorations and yet, despite the pledge being repeated so regularly, we do forget.



Khrystyna Misko, with a copy of her book, *Faded Footsteps, Forgotten Graves*.

The book *Faded Footsteps, Forgotten Graves: Queensland's Ukrainian Anzacs* is restoring some forgotten memories. As part of the larger Ukrainians in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) project funded by a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant, the book enshrines the legacy of some of Australia's forgotten First World War servicemen.

When Australia desperately needed workers in the early 1910s, several hundred Ukrainian men came here as labourers. Then, when the First World War broke out, they were given a stark choice: enlist in the AIF or return 'home' to serve in the Tsar's army.

Although these men seemed to have vanished into history, one day in 1980, Khrystyna Misko, a history student of Ukrainian heritage, stumbled across something interesting.

"I first encountered Ukrainians in the AIF in the 1980s as I was trawling through archival records," Ms Misko said.

"I wondered how that was possible."

Three decades later, the opportunity arose to follow up her discovery and publish her findings. She applied for a grant with the enthusiastic backing of the Ukrainian Community of Queensland.

Among the first roadblocks that Ms Misko encountered was the sheer lack of information about these men. Official army records provided their service profiles, but little else.

Ms Misko soon found that most of the Ukrainians who fought for Australia and returned, had great



The previously unmarked grave of Ukrainian soldier James Cochura.

difficulty assimilating to their new country, leaving few traces of their story.

"What struck me most was that many died without families and nobody by their side, and their medals were returned to the army barracks," she said.

Through persistence, Ms Misko managed to trace the lives of 60 of the men before, during and after their service. Of the 60 who are recorded enlisting in the AIF, 48 served overseas, 11 were killed, 34 returned, and three are believed to have remained in Europe.

Of these 34, two died in mental institutions, five committed suicide and ten married and started families. The rest mostly died

alone on the margins of Australian society, regularly frustrated in their attempts to access returned servicemen's benefits.

The research also discovered 14 of the 34 were laid to rest in unmarked graves. Through the project, the unmarked graves of four forgotten Ukrainian Anzacs now have a name and a plaque: Private James Cochura and Private William Whynsky in Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane; Private Nicholas Roomianzoff in Martyn St Cemetery in Cairns; and Private John Sepscak in Taabinga Cemetery, Kingaroy.

The book was gratefully welcomed by Australia's Ukrainian community. Ms Misko said she has regularly heard people say that they had no idea how far back their cultural history stretched in Australia.

Copies of *Faded Footsteps, Forgotten Graves: Queensland's Ukrainian Anzacs* can now be found in libraries, universities and community groups around Australia and several countries overseas, including Ukraine.



Pastor Linda Sivyer.

**What is a bas-relief plaque?**

Often used on memorials, a bas-relief plaque uses a type of sculpture where shapes are carved so they are raised from their background. The shapes—such as those of the Indigenous men shown on the Aurukun plaques—are slightly flattened so they can be seen from any direction without distortion.



Local Indigenous children lay wreaths at the new memorial.

# Memorial reminds next generation to never forget

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have served in every conflict and commitment involving Australian defence contingents since Federation, including the First and Second World Wars.

A memorial remembering the century of service given by Indigenous war veterans was unveiled on Anzac Day 2016 in the Cape York community of Aurukun. Recognising Aurukun's strong history of service, a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant added two bas-relief bronze plaques to the town's honour roll.

The first plaque features the crest of the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces (ACMF) and commemorates Aurukun men who enlisted, such as long-time resident Rev Bill MacKenzie, who was a prisoner of war in Messines, France, in the First World War and served in army intelligence in the Second World War.

The second plaque, featuring a group of local Ngakyunkwokka men in a pearling lugger, remembers the 11 local men who joined up in 1943 alongside Torres Strait Islanders in the Australian Infantry's ACMF Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion to help protect the maritime borders of Far North Queensland during the Second World War.

Former Aurukun pastor and shire council worker Linda Sivyer said formal recognition of the community's soldiers was long overdue.

When Pastor Sivyer first arrived in the community 22 years ago, she said little was done

to commemorate their rich military history. Gradually, over many years, she encouraged residents to gather for Anzac Day commemorations. Over time, the formality and size of the observance grew. Now, local school children, army cadets, army reservists and police officers march each year.

For many years, the Anzac Day march ended at the Aurukun Mission Cemetery on the nearby Archer River. There lies the Commonwealth war grave of a man known only as Private Ngarkwokka, aged 37, who died on April 20 1945, from wounds sustained in the Second World War.

"Some of the men and their daughters or sons and grandchildren still lay a wreath here each year," Pastor Sivyer said.

"In the past, people would go down to the cemetery and put flowers on the graves of those who served."

She said older people in the community still remembered the affect the Second World War had on them, brought closer to home by a decision during the war to locate a Royal Australian Air Force radar station at the mouth of the Archer River.

"Many people have told me a submarine tried to get around the heads and into the river," she said.

"Old men would tell me they weren't allowed fires at night, for fear it would attract the enemy."

Pastor Sivyer, who on Australia Day 2016 was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the community in Aurukun, said she was thrilled Aurukun was continuing to observe a century of service.

"To the Aurukun community, the tradition of military service has been a very important thing," she said.

"And there are now younger kids also serving in the Army Reserves, so there is a new generation also understanding the importance of the Anzac tradition."

# Western Front experience inspires for life

Every Anzac Day in the early morning chill, the sun rises on Gallipoli Cove, casting light and shadows on the gravestones of Australia's fallen heroes. In April 2016, eight secondary school students from Queensland had the opportunity to attend this moving Anzac Day Dawn Service thanks to stirring presentations they had created to apply for the Premier's Anzac Prize.

The prize included a two-week tour of significant First World War sites, from Anzac Cove through to the battlefields of the Western Front. Along the way, the students discovered for themselves the struggles, hardships and bittersweet victories of war.

For recipient Sally Higgins, formerly a Year 12 student at Assumption College in Warwick, the prize was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"For each of us as Premier's Anzac Prize winners, it has infinite positive repercussions," Miss Higgins said.

"It's not just among young people, either, as I've been able to share my stories with people of all ages."

To prepare for the tour, students and chaperones each researched three service people—one from Gallipoli,

one from Flanders or the Somme, and one who enlisted at their age—bringing home the reality of the very young men and women who had travelled overseas and, in many cases, never returned. Their research was supported by a two-day Young Historians Workshop hosted by State Library of Queensland who held workshops on topics ranging from collections and databases to digital legacies.

Miss Higgins said she chose to research her great-great-great uncle, Major General 'Digger' Brand. Born Charles Henry, he was nicknamed 'Digger' by his men as a sign of respect for his leadership.

"Because he was so high up in the hierarchy of the military, he was well documented in military history," she said.

"I was very interested in his story and my own grandmother could remember stories about him, and it felt like a very personal research project, to follow his footsteps."

Even more personal was her research into Private Timothy Lynam. One of four brothers from Miss Higgins' hometown of Allora on the Darling Downs, he was killed in action, aged 28.

"That was by far the most moving research for me," Miss Higgins said.

"Compared to Digger Brand, he was just a private, from small Allora and he didn't have a documented story.

"Yet the more research I did, I found where he lived, which was very close to my house, and that he went to the same church as my family.

"There were so many similarities and parallels in my life, despite the century's difference.

"His family had four sons out of the 11 children go to war and two of the sons died overseas.

"I wasn't able to trace the family line much further. I felt a certain duty to get really involved in his story."

Throughout the two-week tour, the students' emotions were high as they paused at historic gravesites to read eulogies they had researched and written to the servicemen they'd come to know so well.

Miss Higgins said she stood at the final resting place of Private Lynam at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux to read her remembrance.

"When I knew his own family had never been able to go over there and see his grave, I felt a certain duty and privilege to honour him and represent Allora and Australia."

The Premier's Anzac Prize, which sent its first group of students overseas in 2013, is open to all eligible Queensland high school students in years 8 to 11 through an ongoing funding commitment from the Queensland Government and will continue to send young Queenslanders overseas for a life changing experience during the Anzac Centenary.

Miss Higgins said receiving the prize had made her appreciate the importance of remembering and honouring First World War soldiers.

"It's not about glorifying war, it's about acknowledging the sacrifices made by the soldiers and their families 100 years ago," she said.

"It's so important to remember."



Department of Education and Training's Premier's Anzac Prize students exploring the preserved First World War trenches at Vimy Ridge, France, April 2016.

# Ready for battle

When the world went to war, places like Australia felt suddenly exposed due to the vulnerability and scale of our coastal borders. New roads, rail and ports were required to access remote areas and the urgent need to coordinate these in Queensland fell on the public service.



Based on the Department of Transport and Main Roads' extensive library of publications and oral histories recorded by staff, a new story has been told about the department's former staff and the times in which they lived and worked. *In roads to defence* is an Anzac Centenary commemorative publication and includes moving stories from staff about the men and women in their families who served, and acknowledges the role played by transportation in Queensland's defence history during the First and Second World Wars.

It tells of the story behind Anzac Avenue, an 18 kilometre arterial road that today links Redcliffe to Petrie. Not only was it Queensland's first bitumen road, it was an opportunity

to give meaningful work to the many returned servicemen who had arrived home from war only to face unemployment. Two thousand trees were planted along Anzac Memorial Avenue, as it was known when it opened in 1925, turning the road into the state's largest arboreal Avenue of Honour.

The book also tells the story of the sinking of the Australian hospital ship *Centaur* on 14 May 1943, killing 268 people including nurses and field ambulance officers. The deaths had a profound impact on the Queensland psyche and when the war ended, community interest grew in locating the sunken vessel to bring peace to those in the community who had lost family and friends.

However, it wasn't until 2009, under a combined Federal and Queensland Government initiative, that the *Centaur* was found. Aided by the maritime expertise and logistical support of Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads and Department of the Premier and Cabinet, a commemorative plaque from the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* Association was placed on the wreck that is now protected as a historic shipwreck and war grave.



Members of Pacific Andrews' family at the Andrews Overpass opening.

# Bridging the past

An initiative to name bridges around Queensland continues, giving the public the opportunity to suggest Anzac Centenary themed names, significant to their local community.

Linking Redcliffe to Brisbane, the Ted Smout Memorial Bridge takes its name from Queensland's last surviving Anzac, who died in 2004, aged 106, just a year before the bridge was opened in 2005.

In 2016, the Bruce Highway Cluden Rail Overpass near Townsville was the first to be named and now bears the name of Percival Pacific Andrews Overpass after Townsville war veteran Pacific Andrews who fought

in France, Belgium and Gallipoli, earning the Meritorious Service Medal in June 1918 for gallant conduct and devotion to duty.

Angellala Creek Bridge is now known as Heroes Bridge, reflecting the parallels between the response to the Angellala Creek explosion on 5 September 2014 and the Anzac spirit, where first responders to the incident have received various bravery awards for their efforts.

# Staff stories tell tales of proud past

Throughout Australia's military history, the pressure was on governments in each state to find suitable housing and build more hospitals for those returning from service. In Queensland, staff from the Department of Housing and Public Works rose to the challenge during the First World War.



*Stories from staff* is a publication of memories published to mark a century since the department's response to the First World War, featuring fascinating and moving tributes from current staff about their own family's experience of war and military service. Some are self-confessed 'army brats', descendants from a long line of defence personnel.

Elizabeth Green is proud of her father's achievements in the Vietnam War and for his continuing role in supporting veterans.

In *Stories from staff*, she tells the heartwarming story of her father, Major Kevin Gillett, who took a week's leave from service to fly 8000 kilometres home to marry her mother. He arrived at the church straight from the airport, changing in the car as his groomsman drove.

Alisha Jones remembers her dashing, heavily decorated grandfather, Warrant Officer John 'Buster' Salter. Buster served for 34 years in the British and then Australian armies, in three theatres of war, and was one of the first paratroopers dropped into the prisoner of war camp in Belsen in the Second World War and helped to release Jewish prisoners.

Equally brave was Warrant Officer Lawrence Woods, father to Carolinda Van Uitregt. During a bombing run over Germany in late 1944,

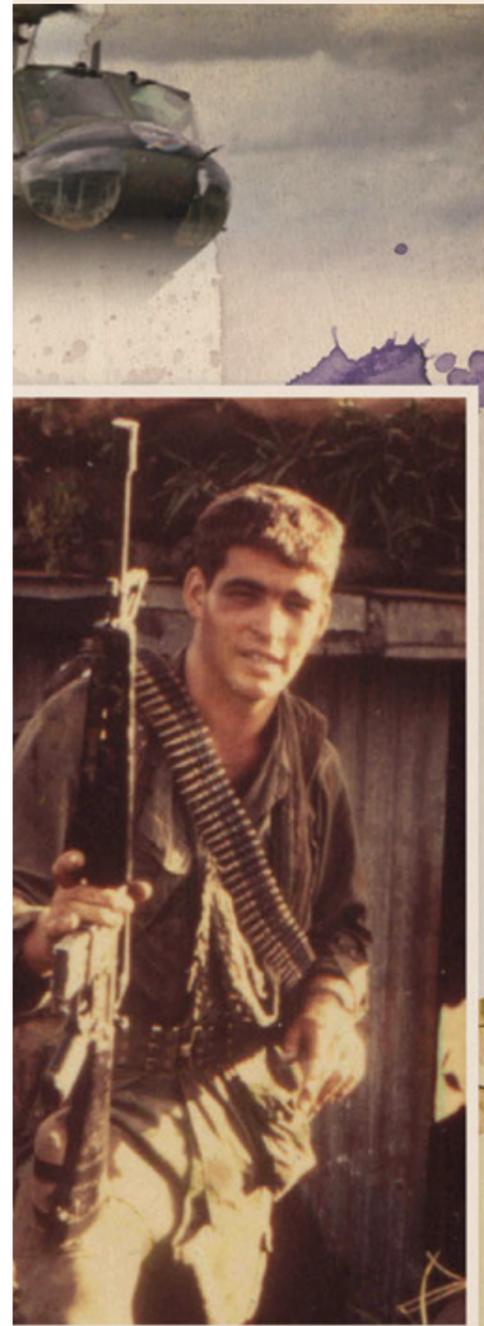
his captain was badly injured by anti-aircraft fire.

With no flight training, Lawrence released the bomb, then kept the Lancaster level and true toward England before his captain could safely land. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross 'for outstanding service in the face of the enemy'.

Frances Cahill tells of her three relatives—grandfather, father and mother—and their service in the world wars. Her mother, Doreen, was a teleprinter operator from 1942 to 1945 and had among her duties the heartbreaking job of sending letters home from soldiers serving overseas, sometimes translating messages from matchbox covers and bits of toilet paper.

As her father was serving in New Guinea as a commando, his high security service records were sealed until 50 years after the war. It was only then that Ms Cahill said she discovered he had served on the treacherous Kokoda Track, and had also been winched down mountainous terrain to retrieve documents from a downed aircraft.

*Stories from staff* is available online at [www.qld.gov.au/anzac100](http://www.qld.gov.au/anzac100)



Major Kevin Gillett in Vietnam.

# Memories for a New Generation

More than 57,700 Queenslanders served Australia in the First World War, leaving behind a population of just over 600,000 people to fill the void and endure the burden of war on the home front. Each person had a story to tell, and their combined efforts created the Queensland we know today.

## Documenting our First World War soldiers

As part of the Queensland Anzac Centenary commemorations, and in collaboration with the Queensland Government, State Library of Queensland (SLQ) is undertaking the *Q ANZAC 100: Memories for a New Generation* initiative to reveal how the First World War legacy remains a living part of modern Queensland.

SLQ staff have been hard at work bringing historical artefacts into the digital era including digitising photographic portraits of some 30,000 servicemen stationed at Enoggera army camp before their embarkation.

Unlike today, when taking a photo is as simple as getting out your phone, photography in the 1910s was a considerable undertaking. For many of these soldiers, their training camp portrait was the only photo ever taken of them.

Niles Elvery, Q ANZAC 100 Regional Coordinator, said 30 volunteers spent thousands of hours between 2013 and 2016 digitising the soldiers' portraits and other materials to help piece together the names and stories of the men in the pictures.

It is this process of digitising, plus the new opportunities it offers in sharing, displaying and researching, that SLQ finds one of the most exciting aspects of the almost five-year project.

"When looking at providing access to heritage collections, digitisation of original material, such as photographs, postcards, letters and diaries is probably one of the best things that has happened in the library and archive world in recent years," Mr Elvery said.

"It is very much a sense of unlocking personal stories from the past."



*Distant Lines* exhibition, SLQ, 2015.



First World War treasures: a white gloves experience, SLQ, 2016.



On the Home Front symposium, SLQ, 2016.

**Making stories accessible for all ages**

To display the huge volume of newly digitised material, SLQ launched *A State of War* in November 2015, an interactive, visually rich portal tying together never-before-seen personal photographs, newspaper clippings, letters and diaries from SLQ's vast collections.

Users can navigate through the portal to discover snapshots of life in the trenches and at home in Queensland under themes that include 'Patriotism and Empire', 'Healing Hands' and 'Aftermath'.

The digitised soldier portraits, drawn from the pictorial supplement of *The Queenslander* newspaper, take pride of place here as well. A section of the portal called

Featured Queenslanders offers in-depth insights into seven men and women who served, including stories, diary excerpts and audio recordings.

While *A State of War* offers much to discover, the *Treasures Wall* experience at SLQ Southbank gives visitors the opportunity to see, hear and read historical records.

"The physical artefacts are incredibly valuable because they are the historic record," Mr Elvery said.

"Even though people can also see the digital rendering of the item, nothing replaces the experience of being able to see and handle the physical artefact."

That experience is also available for people across regional Queensland

who, through SLQ's regional *First World War Treasures* tour, can attend 'white gloves' events to have the rare chance to touch and hold artefacts from the collection.

"We find school students are just absolutely fascinated by the materials and being able to hold them is incredibly special to them," Mr Elvery said.

Another regional initiative reaches even further into the community with a series of workshops led by conservation experts who teach people how to care for and preserve First World War memorabilia, especially the letters, diaries and photographs they have at home.

View the *A State of War* online portal at [www.astateofwar.org.au](http://www.astateofwar.org.au)

**Understanding the home front**

Strengthening the overall understanding of the home front more broadly, SLQ hosted the *On the Home Front* Symposium from 10–11 May 2016. Remote as Queensland was from the battles on land and sea, the symposium speakers, historians, academics, broadcasters and writers explored the very real effects of war on Queensland.

Queensland was a society of deep political and social divides in which a whole generation of the workforce enthusiastically, even innocently, enlisted in what they thought would be a great adventure. Yet one in seven did not come home, and disillusioned survivors returned with stories and scars from years of death, destruction and horror.

Debates about conscription, the evolving role of women, and the growing number of broken families characterised a state that was struggling to cope with rapid systemic change, and the symposium speakers explored the consequences of these upheavals.

*On the Home Front* attendees also viewed the long-running *Keepsakes of War* display, which explored items from SLQ's First World War collections, preserved as tangible reminders of wartime. While the items revealed private experiences, they formed a collective memory of the war as it happened for Queenslanders.

"Many of the objects in SLQ's collection have connections to a certain person, and it is that

object that brings that person to life," Mr Elvery said.

"The object itself could be one of thousands an artisan made in a back alley in Cairo over a century ago, but we can say a specific person brought it home.

"You can tell the story of the artefact, and that is what makes it special and realistic.

"An item without that personal provenance is just an item."

Through the events and initiatives of *Q ANZAC 100: Memories for a New Generation*, people today can make personal and meaningful connections to the human drama of the past.



# Project protects legacy for generations

Brisbane’s Anzac Square has always been a place for the people of Queensland to meet, remember and commemorate.

Borne out of a grieving society that had lost so much in the First World War, Anzac Square was funded by public donations in the difficult years leading up to the Great Depression. However, over the years, the square became worn both above and below ground.

The Anzac Square Restoration and Enhancement Project is a four-year project between the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council to preserve and renew Anzac Square for future generations. In the first two stages of work from 2014 to 2015, issues that had occurred over time were resolved, including water penetration.

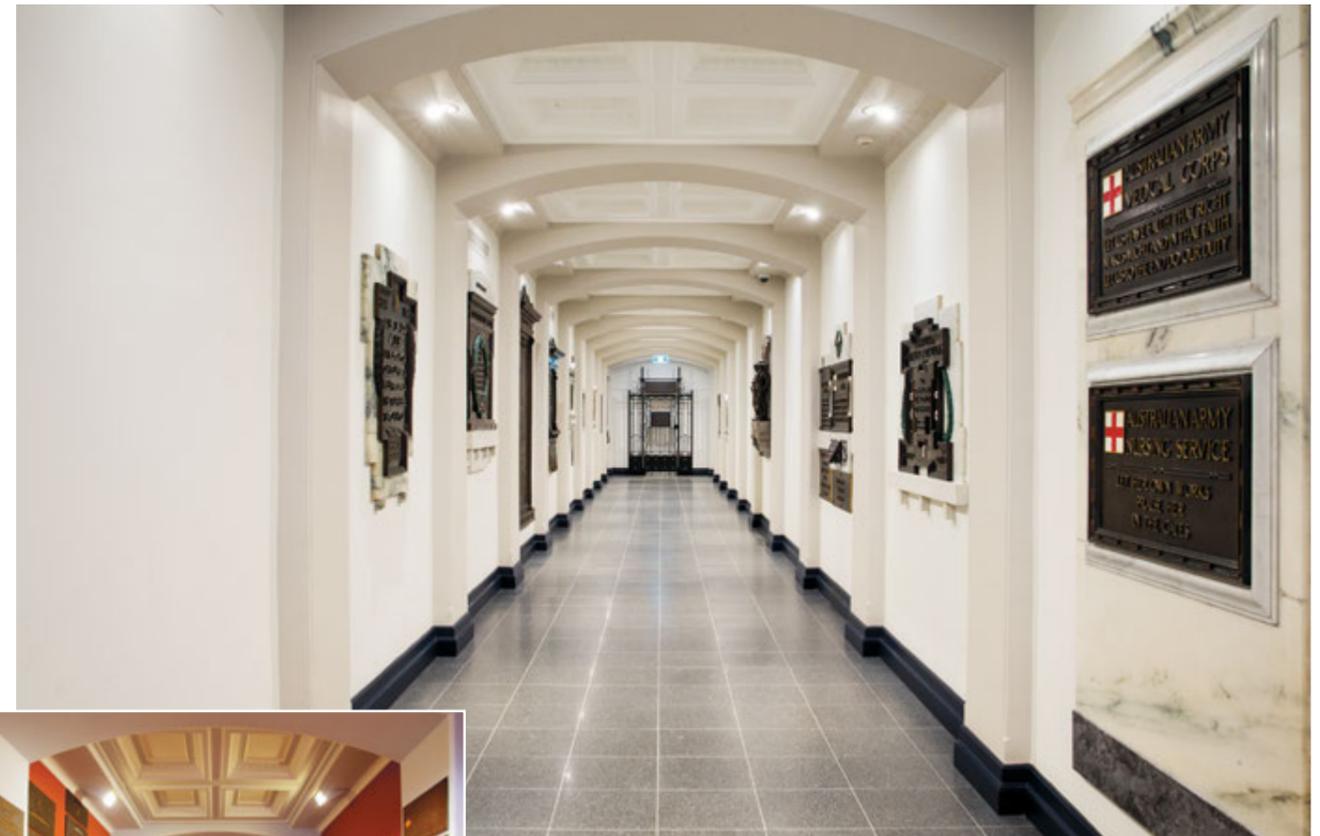
Stage three was the beginning of the most visible works in the project, which affected areas open to the

public. These works were completed in time for Anzac Day 2016 and saw the undercroft areas, which run on either side of a pedestrian tunnel leading from Central Station to Anzac Square, fully restored.

Megan Jones, Principal at Tanner Kibble Denton Architects, said the project was much more than a physical conservation project.

“Whilst it has provided the opportunity to remedy structural and water issues and to conserve significant fabric and spaces, it has also provided the impetus to re-establish the site as the State War Memorial,” she said.

“The curation of the memorials and the creation of a visitor education centre will allow the public and future generations to connect and



Far left: The Shrine of Remembrance, Anzac Square following the restoration and (inset) soon after completion in 1932.

Above: The restored World War 1 Memorial Crypt and (inset) as it was before the restoration.

engage with the site in a more meaningful way through interactive exhibitions and access to national and international collections.”

On one side, the Shrine of Memories has become the World War I Memorial Crypt and World War II Gallery. On the other side, where the Returned and Services League Queensland headquarters were once located, now features a memorial and exhibition gallery for conflicts after the Second World War.

There, where thousands of commuters pass each day, spaces have been returned to their original design and finishes. Now, set plaster walls and mosaic marble floor tiles—many of them the original materials—line the undercroft areas. A missing stained glass window was recreated and a mid-19th century porphyry (rock) wall, built long

before the memorial, was discovered and carefully brought back to life. The many plaques that had been housed in the undercroft areas were also meticulously cleaned and curated.

These areas now provide an opportunity for visitors to Anzac Square to appreciate Queensland’s military history and gain a better understanding of the sacrifices the memorial represents. The undercroft area is currently open to the public on weekdays from 10 am to 4 pm, with a Brisbane City Council staff member on hand to answer questions about military history.

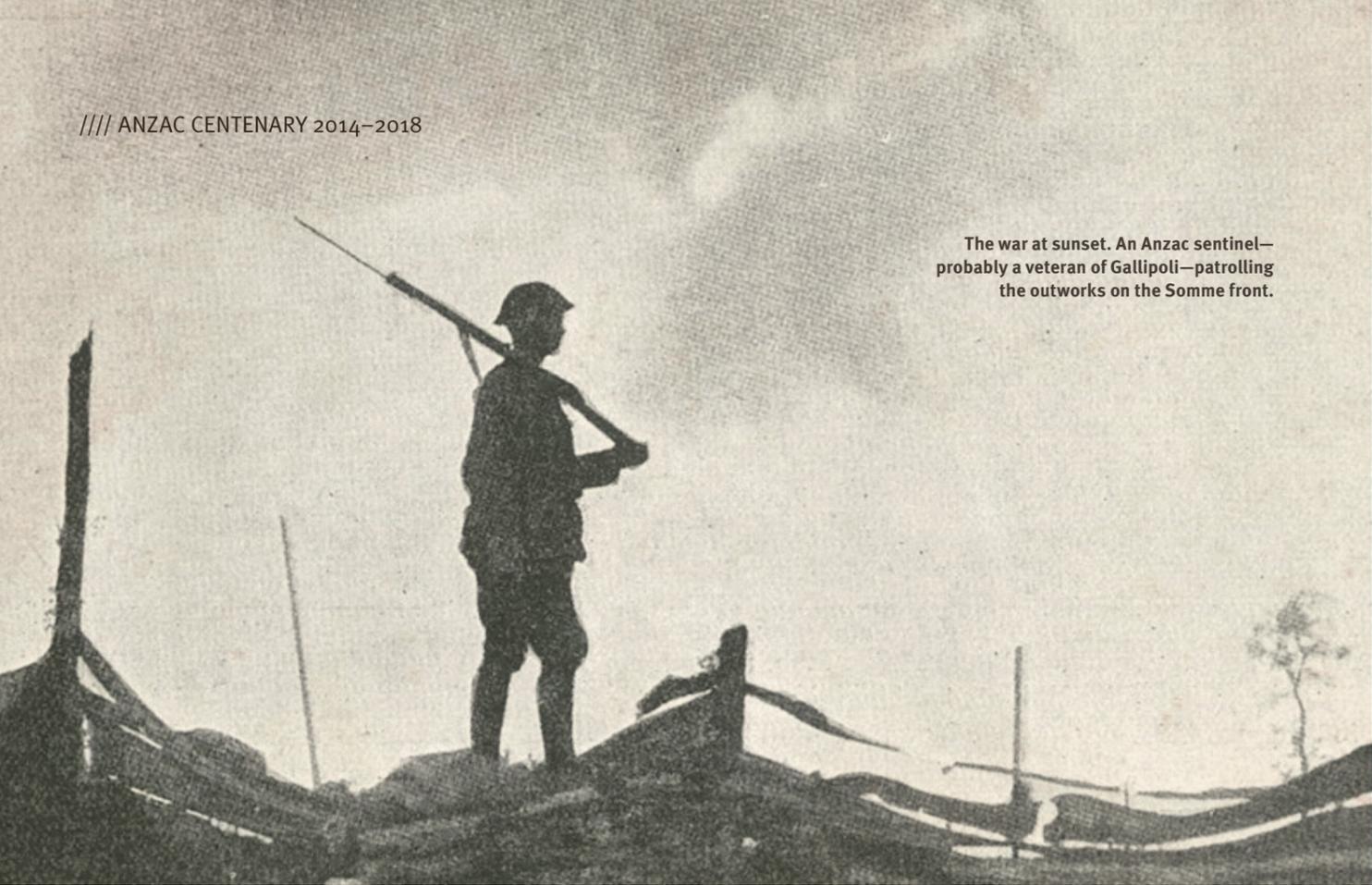
At the 2016 Premier’s Sustainability Awards, Tanner Kibble Denton, as lead architects for the Anzac Square legacy project, accepted the Sustainable Heritage Award for the quality conservation works carried

out to protect its cultural significance for future generations.

Ms Jones said it had been an immense privilege to have led the design work for the project.

“The recently completed works have enhanced Anzac Square’s role as a memorial to those Queenslanders who have served in conflict and peacekeeping and as a venue for gatherings to commemorate this service and sacrifice,” she said.

“We look forward to the completion of the site, which will add even more opportunities for engagement with the public as casual visitors to or through the site, as well as for those who gather to remember the hardships endured and the sacrifices made for our freedom.”



The war at sunset. An Anzac sentinel—probably a veteran of Gallipoli—patrolling the outworks on the Somme front.

## 2016: a year for reflection

Many significant anniversaries were commemorated in 2016, not only from the First World War, but across the last 100 years of service. Each anniversary served as a reminder of the sacrifices of war and the dedication of those who served in our nation's times of greatest need.

### The Somme Offensive

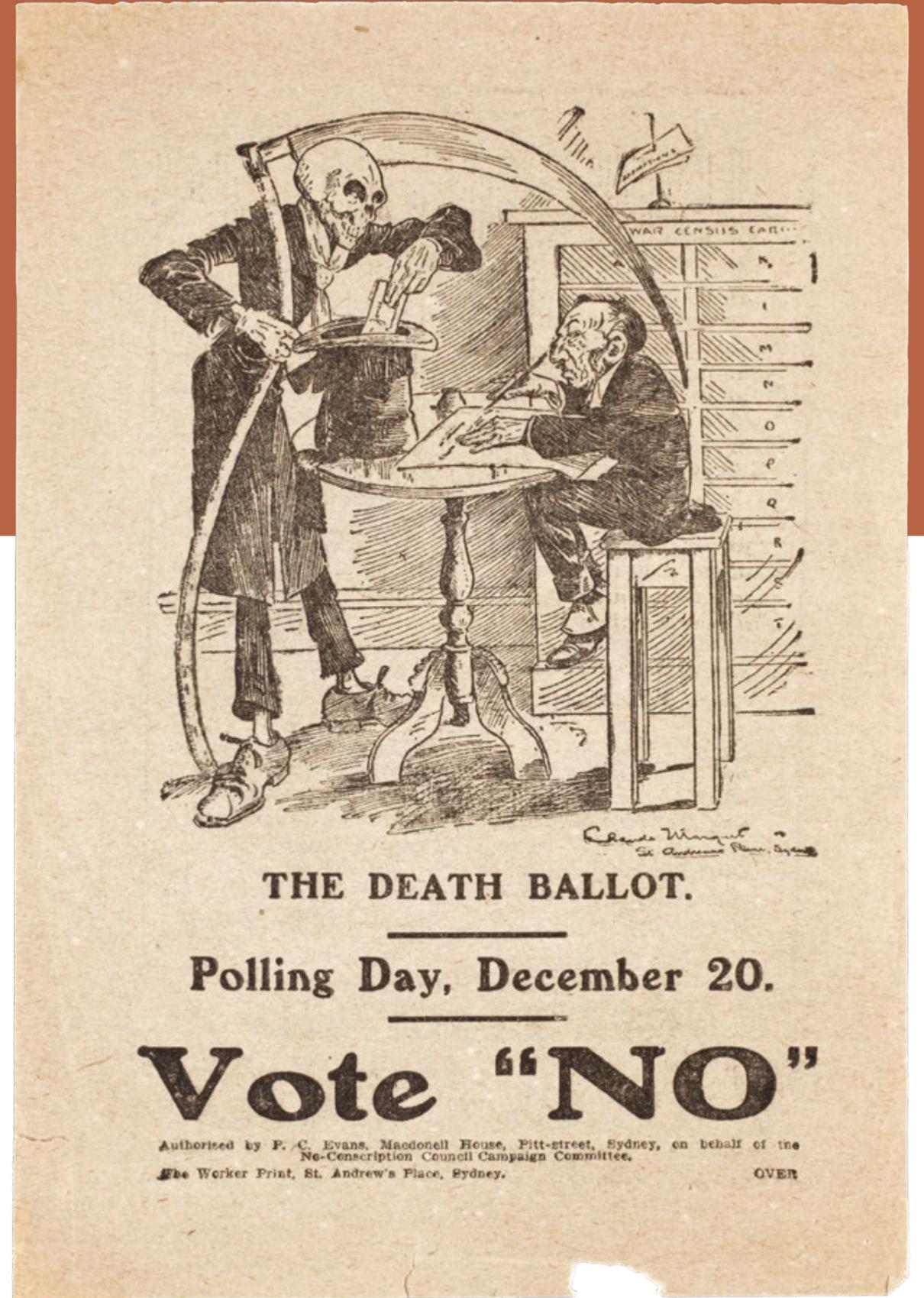
One hundred years ago, with the nation still reeling from the loss of 8141 lives at Gallipoli, Australia joined the campaign on the Western Front. The Somme Offensive lasted from 1 July to 18 November 1916 and included fierce battles at Pozières, Fromelles and Mouquet Farm. The price paid by Australia was devastatingly high. In the first five days of the Somme Offensive, the 1st Division, including Queensland's 9th Battalion, suffered some 5285 casualties. Almost another 2000 were killed in a single day at Fromelles, and 6741 died at Pozières. Official war historian Charles Bean later wrote Pozières "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth".

### First referendum shows a nation divided

Until the heavy losses from Gallipoli and the Somme Offensive were reported, Australia's voluntary recruitment system had been robust and enthusiastic.

With fast-dwindling numbers of men willing to serve, Prime Minister Billy Hughes introduced a referendum to make conscription mandatory. On 28 October 1916, the controversial referendum was narrowly defeated with 1,087,557 in favour of conscription and 1,160,033 against. A second attempt the following year to introduce conscription would also prove unsuccessful.

An anti-conscription campaign flyer published in 1917.





HMAS Sydney II.



After the Battle of Long Tan.

### Sinking of HMAS Sydney

The loss of 645 men aboard HMAS *Sydney* during the Second World War was remembered in 2016 during 75th anniversary commemorations. The light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy was sunk on 19 November 1941 in the Indian Ocean off the Western Australian coast following a battle with the German raider HSK *Kormoran*.

Carefully disguised as a freighter but heavily armed, the *Kormoran* enticed HMAS *Sydney* into close range before attacking. The loss of the HMAS *Sydney* remains Australia's worst naval disaster. The *Kormoran* was also sunk and 80 of its crew died.

On 17 March 2008, the Australian Government announced the wreckage of both HMAS *Sydney* and the German raider *Kormoran* had been found approximately 112 nautical miles off Steep Point, Western Australia.

### First Gulf War

Twenty-five years ago, when United Nations Security Council sanctions failed to dissuade Iraqi president Saddam Hussein from invading oil-rich Kuwait, a United States-led military coalition of countries including Australia responded with force. Operation Desert Storm commenced on 2 August 1990 with a month-long air bombardment followed by a swift ground assault in February 1991, dubbed the '100-hour war'.

Australia contributed naval support in the northern Persian Gulf with three guided missile frigates, a destroyer and two support ships. An army air defence detachment was also sent to sea to protect the supply ships from possible air attack, as well as Australian medical teams who served on board US navy hospital ships, photo interpreters and Royal Australian Navy special forces. Fewer than 200 coalition troops were killed in combat, with no Australian lives lost.

### Battle of Long Tan

Thursday 18 August 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, one of the largest battles fought by Australians in the Vietnam War.

During a monsoonal downpour, 105 men of D company from Brisbane's 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment were engaged by a force of approximately 2000 Viet Cong in a rubber plantation near the Vietnamese village of Long Tan.

Isolated and outnumbered, the determination of the men, together with the help of heavy artillery and air support, ended the battle within four hours. The Battle of Long Tan was the most costly single engagement for the Australian military during the Vietnam War, with 19 killed and 21 wounded.



Thirty-three Australians were brought home in Operation Reunite.

### Repatriation of Australians

60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1972.

On 2 June 2016, 33 Australian service personnel and their dependents who had lost their lives during the conflict finally reached Australian soil, repatriated from cemeteries in Malaysia and Singapore. This marked one of the largest single repatriations of Australian servicemen and dependents in Australia's history.

The families of several other personnel interred in the cemeteries have chosen to let their loved ones rest where they have lain through five decades. The graves will be cared for in perpetuity.

To read more about these anniversaries, visit [www.qld.gov.au/anzac100](http://www.qld.gov.au/anzac100)

## Did you know?

Many people know the major historical events of the First World War yet beyond these battles there is a tapestry of stories, myths and amazing facts which continue to both surprise and challenge our understanding. Learn more about the First World War at [www.qld.gov.au/anzac100](http://www.qld.gov.au/anzac100)

Queensland's last surviving First World War soldier was Lieutenant Ted Smout, who died in 2004 at the age of 106.

Even today, when farmers in Belgium and France plough their fields, they find unexploded bombs, barbed wire, shrapnel and bullets left over from the First World War.

Over 20,000 dogs served with the Allied forces in the First World War, many playing an important role on the frontline in relaying messages, working with sentries and catching rats. Thousands more were kept as battalion mascots or as companions.

The first motorised ambulances were used during the First World War. Among the thousands of men and women who volunteered as ambulance drivers was a young Walt Disney.

During the First World War, single women in Healesville, Victoria, refused to date any young man who did not enlist. 'If we are not good enough to fight for, we are not good enough to smoodge with,' they declared. 'Smoodge' was slang for kissing and cuddling.

It's hard to know exactly how many kilometres of trenches were dug on the Western Front. If laid end to end, the Allies' network is said to have stretched approximately 20,000 kilometres—nearly the entire coastline of Australia.

Australians at home knitted over 1.3 million pairs of socks for First World War troops, closely following the official Grey Sock pattern published at the time—either grey or khaki in colour and without seams to prevent rubbing on the soldiers' feet.

The first time Australian soldiers saw tanks on a battlefield was on the Western Front. Tanks were known as males, armed with 6-pounder guns, and females, armed with machine guns.

Cartoon published in Truth newspaper, 1917.



The War Chest Sock Appeal, Sydney, 1917.

The deadliest flu outbreak in history occurred during and after the First World War. When influenza swept through Europe it claimed 15 million lives, and more than 50 million worldwide. This was almost three times more than the number killed during the war.

According to the records of the Australian Comforts Fund, volunteers risked their lives on the frontline to serve more than 12 million mugs of coffee and tea to Australian soldiers during the First World War.

Australian soldier enjoys a cup of tea at the Australian Comforts Fund stall, Longueval, France, December 1916.



Australian troops in the advance trenches.

## Follow the Anzac Centenary on Facebook

Discover more about our military history through the Anzac Centenary Queensland Facebook page which features interesting facts, profiles and upcoming anniversaries.

It's also where you can honour the sacrifices of our past servicemen and women, share your stories, and show appreciation to those who are serving today at home and overseas by liking and sharing our posts.

To get regular updates visit [www.facebook.com/anzaccenentaryqld](http://www.facebook.com/anzaccenentaryqld) and click on 'like'.



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The Anzac Centenary (2014–2018) marks 100 years since our nation's involvement in the First World War, and encompasses all subsequent wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved.

*Salute* captures some of the highlights of our 2016 commemorations as Queenslanders reflected on our proud history.

Many people attended commemorative events, while others made contributions through the creation of permanent reminders of those who served and many who made the ultimate sacrifice.

These are Queensland's stories of remarkable events and activities, including photos taken during the commemorations, as well as in wartime.

The Queensland Government is proud to support the Anzac Centenary through its commemorative program to help share the stories of our servicemen and women and honour their memories.

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