

SALUTE

Queensland Anzac Centenary 2014–2018 / ISSUE 3



**A First World War propaganda parade
marches along Queen Street, Brisbane, 1917.**

**Cover: Image courtesy of Returned and
Services League, Queensland.**

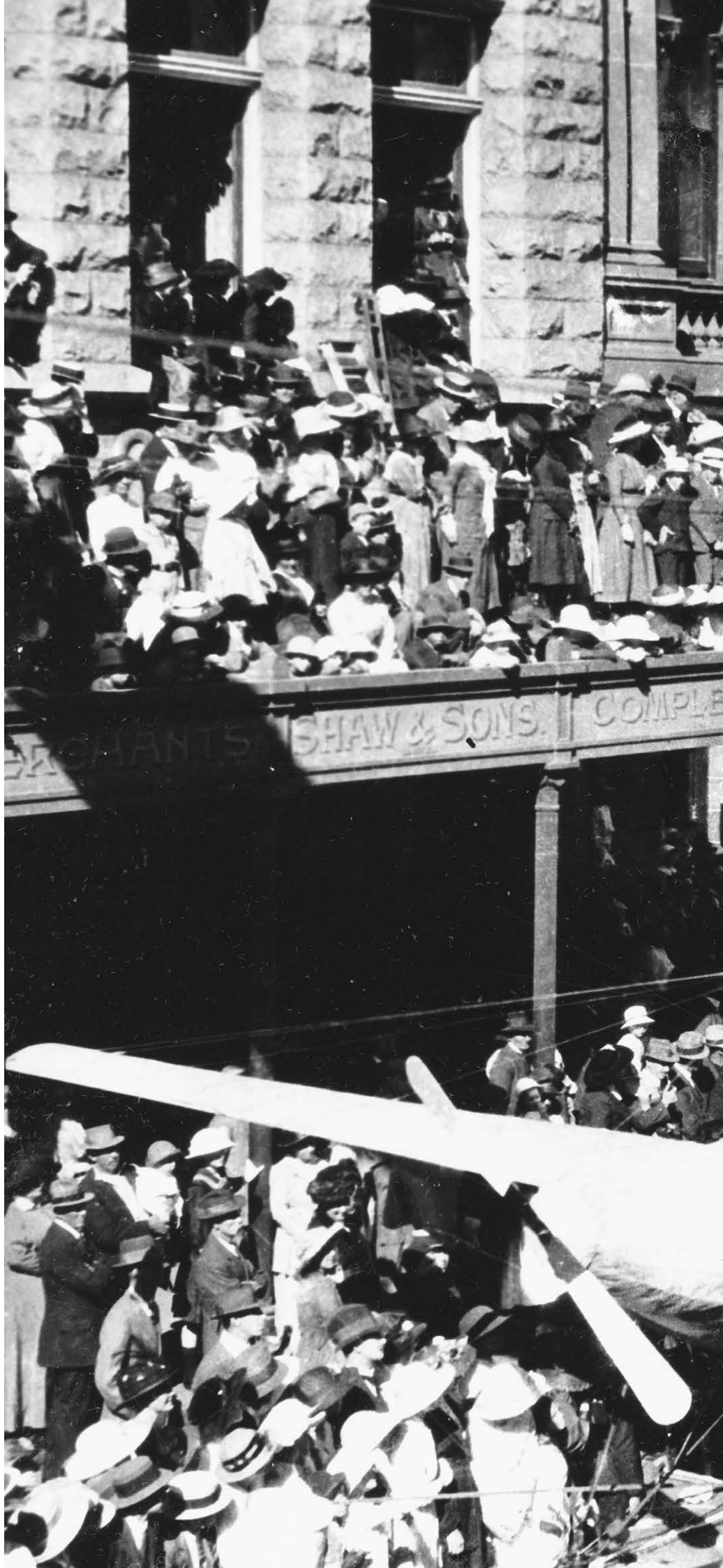
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War volunteers outside a cafe that was set up in Queensland at the end of the First World War, 1918.

A message from the committee



Welcome to the third issue of Salute, a record of Queensland's commemorations in 2017, the fourth year of the Anzac Centenary.

Throughout the year, I was delighted by the on-going enthusiasm to remember all those servicemen and women who have served and sacrificed over the past 100 years—demonstrated by attendance at ceremonies, engagement with the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program, and participation in community events.

In many ways, it was a year of difficult commemorations. In February, we remembered the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore during the Second World War. When Singapore fell, more than 130,000 Allied troops, including 22,000 Australians, became prisoners of war—a demoralising blow for all.

In April and May we reflected upon the two First World War battles at Bullecourt; engagements so devastating that the troops colloquially referred to this Western Front region as 'the blood tub'. The battles resulted in 10,400 Australian casualties with a further 1170 men taken prisoner.

While many of the anniversaries in 2017 reflected the costly nature of the stalemate on the Western Front, the year also presented opportunities to commemorate Australian victories like the battles of Menin Road and Polygon Wood in September. In that month, we also remembered those who fought in the Battle of Milne Bay. This gruelling 12-day engagement is remembered as Australia's first decisive victory against the Japanese on land during the Second World War.

Through September and October there was outstanding community support for the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba. Commemorations across Queensland evoked the famous charge of the Australian Light Horse that put the allies on the path to success in the Middle East—exemplifying what we now regard as the Anzac spirit.

Many more important military anniversaries will be marked in 2018. We will recall one of the most dramatic years of the First World War—the great German offensive in March, the halting of that offensive by the Australian Imperial Force at Villers-Bretonneux in late April, the great '100 days' advance of the allies that started in August, all culminating in the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918. I am sure that Queensland communities will maintain their interest and support in the last year of the Anzac Centenary program.

Finally, I would again like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary for their ongoing support and wise counsel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Craig". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

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

A message from the Premier



As we reflect on 100 years since the First World War, Queensland remembers the sacrifice of our state's servicemen and women. More than 57,000 Queenslanders enlisted to serve our country, with many more contributing to the war effort on the home front.

The Queensland Government's Anzac Centenary grants program has helped communities recognise and honour our defence personnel, as well as reflect on the incredible wartime contributions of our state's dedicated community members.

Through our grants program, more than 270 groups have received in excess of \$5.6 million in funding since 2013. This funding has supported a range of commemorative projects, including memorial restorations, exhibitions, interactive displays, the digitisation of honour rolls and musical performances. Each project is a unique, community-minded tribute to the vital role Queenslanders played during the First World War or subsequent conflict.

This year presents an important opportunity to commemorate the historic signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, which led to the end of the First World War. In recognition of the significance of the Armistice Centenary, the Queensland Government has committed \$2 million to a statewide program of commemorative activities in 2018. The program will feature a statewide public art project, the illumination of iconic Queensland landmarks and a variety of community events and concerts.

These commemorative events and our grants program reflect my Government's wider commitment to supporting our veterans. With the Anzac Centenary period coming to a close, we will introduce a new \$1.5 million grants program over three years for veterans' groups and other organisations. This program will recognise the need to continue to preserve and create memorials, monuments and other public sites that acknowledge veteran achievements. We have also committed to expand the public transport concessions for veterans, as well as support our veterans into public sector employment.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported or taken part in Queensland Anzac Centenary commemorations.

As we mark the end of the Anzac Centenary this year, I urge Queenslanders to get involved in their local community programs and join our state in commemorating the First World War.

For more information about upcoming events and grant projects across Queensland, visit www.qld.gov.au/anzac100

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anastacia'.

Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

Bringing a forgotten battle to light

For the men who were there, the two disastrous clashes at Bullecourt were terrible experiences. To ensure the gallant actions of these men are not lost to time, Queenslanders are doing their part to shine a light on these dark days of the First World War.

Top: Australians in the second line of the trenches before Riencourt (near Bullecourt), cleaning their rifles in readiness for an attack.

Before dawn on 11 April 1917, troops from the 4th Australian Division began their advance on the German trenches near the small village of Bullecourt in northern France.

With limited ammunition and little artillery support, the men were simply overwhelmed by the enemy's strong counter-attack. By the evening, countless fallen men lay in the two-kilometre stretch between the two trenches, leading the Australians to nickname it 'the blood tub'. More than 3000 Australians were killed or wounded and 1170 were taken prisoner—the largest number of troops captured in a single engagement during the First World War.

Despite being an unmitigated disaster, the Australians were ordered to try again within a month. In the second battle the men were able to secure their objectives, despite fierce counter-attacks that lasted almost three weeks. While technically victorious, the Australians were unlikely to be celebratory—a further 7482 men had been killed or injured during the Second Battle of Bullecourt.

"The Second Bullecourt (battle) was, in some ways, the stoutest achievement of the Australian soldier in France."

Charles Bean, official Australian Imperial Force historian.

Solemn ceremony

On 25 April 2017, Captain Ian Watson RAN (Retired) represented Queensland at the official commemorative ceremonies held in Australian Memorial Park, Bullecourt. The solemn service was conducted close to the 'Bullecourt Digger'—a bronze statue of an Australian infantryman who forever looks over the fields where so many fellow servicemen gave their lives.

Digging up the past

With hindsight, it is clear to many that poor planning on behalf of the British greatly contributed to the terrible losses at Bullecourt—particularly the decision for the first battle to proceed before artillery support arrived. But for the



Australian troops on the ground, the performance of the British tanks was also to blame. Twelve tanks were deployed to lead the advance and provide cover, but most could not keep up with the troops, broke down in the mud or were shelled to pieces.

One hundred years on, a team of British and Australian archaeologists have begun excavating the battle site, hoping to learn more about these tanks' failings.

Remains of Tank 796 have been uncovered, including armour plates, sections of track, and its six-pounder shells. The findings confirm that Tank 796 was a lightly-armoured training tank. This model was known to break down and was probably unsuitable for use in battle, let alone in the terrible conditions at Bullecourt—further evidence of poor planning.

However, each piece recovered had been heavily damaged, indicating this British tank crew were in the thick of the battle alongside their Australian companions.



Awareness at home

Back in Australia, digging of a different sort was underway. Spurred on by the Anzac Centenary's awareness-raising efforts, many descendants were searching through records and databases to determine just what happened to their forebears at Bullecourt.

Among them was Keith Shang from Maryborough, whose father and uncle, Private Sidney Chang and Private Caleb Shang, were two of only 200 Chinese-Australians allowed to enlist. Caleb fought in and survived the First Battle of Bullecourt. By the time of his discharge, Caleb had earned two Distinguished Conduct Medals and one Military Medal—Queensland's most decorated soldier at the time.

Rae McDougall of Brisbane told of her great-uncle, Driver Herbert Mallyon, who was a stretcher bearer and ambulance driver on the Western Front. In his diaries, Herbert described the bombing of the field hospital during the Second Battle of Bullecourt as "...absolutely the worst experience I ever had".

For Mary McCarthy of Bribie Island and Cathy Kelly of the Sunshine Coast, their father's story is a source of constant inspiration. Private John Herbert Green was shot in both legs while behind enemy lines during the first battle. Determined not to become a prisoner of war, John dragged himself back across the battlefield and lay among the dead for 24 hours before being rescued.

These are just some of the incredible stories unearthed and shared during the 100th anniversary commemorations for the Battles of Bullecourt. While often tragic and confronting, these personal accounts also show that, despite the terrible conditions and devastating losses, the Australians at Bullecourt exemplified the Anzac values we hold dear.

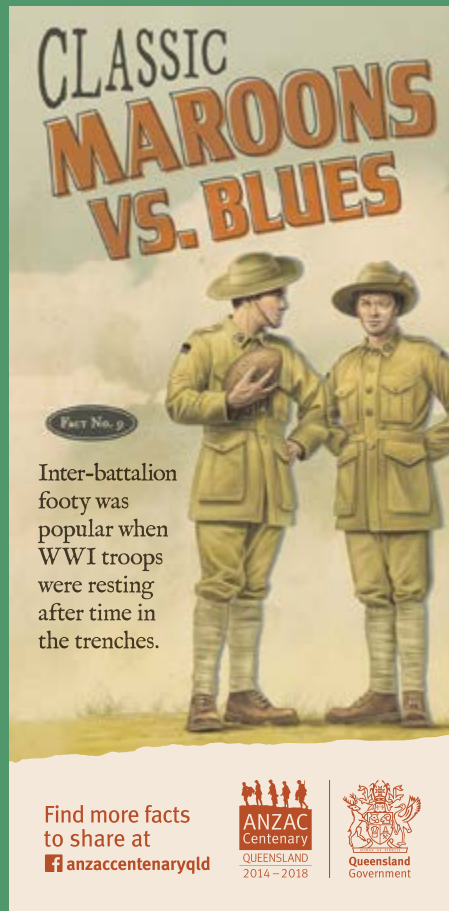
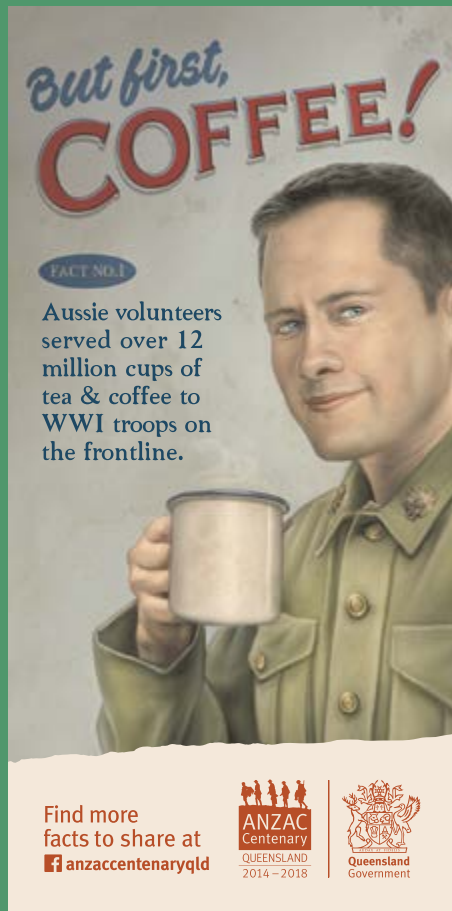
Top: Keith Shang with a portrait of his father, Private Sidney Shang.



Rae McDougall with a photo of her great uncle, Driver Herbert Mallyon.



Mary McCarthy with her daughter Helen and a photograph of her father John Herbert Green (centre) and his brothers.



The surprising side of war

Although it can be confronting to explore such an emotive and sombre topic, it is important to understand how the First World War challenged and affected all Australians. In 2017, Queenslanders explored another side of this period—one that is full of surprises.



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Fact No. 8
FRONTLINE WWI TROOPS OFTEN ATE THE SAME RATIOMS OF CANNED BEEF AND HARD BISCUITS FOR MONTHS ON END.

Find more facts to share at
f [anzaccenentaryqld](https://anzaccenentaryqld.com)

ANZAC Centenary
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AUTHENTIC
Frequent Flyers

Fact No. 2
Women were flying planes before WWI, a handful even taught male fighter pilots and flew in combat missions.

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**100%
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FACT NO. 3
AUSSIES AT HOME KNITTED OVER 1 MILLION PAIRS OF SOCKS FOR WWI TROOPS.

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In 2016, 100 Queenslanders were quizzed about their knowledge of the First World War. When presented with nine unusual facts about this period, only three from the group knew them all. Surprisingly, even people who believed they had a strong knowledge of this era could only claim to know half of the facts.

From this insight, a Queensland-wide campaign was developed and launched in 2017. It featured a collection of interesting First World War facts that highlighted some of the most surprising aspects of the First World War—fascinating details that were easy to share and

talk about. The campaign was designed to spark interest, provide new perspectives and encourage conversation across generations, helping to keep the Anzac spirit alive. These fascinating First World War facts were viewed more than 2.7 million times on Facebook—a hugely encouraging outcome.

What Queenslanders experience, learn and share during the Anzac Centenary period—such as these extraordinary First World War facts—will help our proud Anzac traditions and spirit endure for another 100 years.



Anzac Day: a commitment honoured

Each year on 25 April, Queenslanders gather in their tens of thousands to keep a century-old commitment. Commencing with the day's first rays of light, reverent crowds pause to remember those who have served and ensure their commitment and sacrifice are not forgotten.

When planning the first Anzac Day more than 100 years ago with Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Canon David Garland and others, then-Queensland Governor, Major Sir Hamilton John Goold-Adams, GCMG, CB submitted the motion:

"That the heroic conduct of our gallant Queensland troops during the present war, and especially on that ever-memorable occasion of the landing at Gallipoli on April 25 last, has earned for them undying fame, and deserves the fullest recognition by the people of this country, whose rights and liberties they have been bravely defending."

As a veteran of the Boer War, Sir Hamilton was well aware of the sacrifices made by defence force personnel, and the impact this had on their families, friends and the wider community.

There is little doubt Sir Hamilton would be immensely proud that the commemorative traditions he helped start in 1916 are still carried out today. What is more, they are held

with seemingly renewed commitment, passion and reverence.

The annual Dawn Service organised by the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee saw continued strong attendance in 2017, as did countless more ceremonies and events organised throughout Brisbane and regional Queensland by Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) Queensland Sub Branches. Each of these important services are supported by dedicated individuals from the Australian Defence Force, local government, schools, veterans' organisations and many other community groups.

RSL Queensland president Stewart Cameron said more communities are embracing Anzac Day services as understanding of the day's importance grows.

"The crowds are increasing, the shrine area [at Anzac Square] is packed, it's literally packed and it's been that way for some years now—and if you go out to suburbs like Kenmore and Sandgate, again the crowds are getting bigger," Mr Cameron said.



“It’s a recognition in my mind that folk are actually understanding the true nature of service.”

New faces

Sadly, the men honoured by the first Anzac Day are no longer with us, and few veterans from the Second World War remain to march. However, the Anzac Day parades around Queensland remain vibrant, with veterans from Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and other recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations participating.

Parade regulars would have noticed a number of new faces marching through Brisbane in 2017. For the first time, a contingent of East Timorese defence personnel was invited to march alongside Australian comrades. The East Timorese community provided support to Australian forces during the Second World War in battles against the Japanese.

A contingent of 21 Indian ex-service personnel also took part, honouring the 15,000 Indians who fought with the allied forces during the First World War.

Students pay respects

In a relatively recent but equally significant Anzac Day tradition, Queensland schoolchildren gather ahead of the official commemorations to pay their respects. At the Brisbane Students’ Anzac Commemoration Ceremony—organised each year by the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee— young Queenslanders represented their peers through participation in time-honoured traditions, such as laying wreaths and observing a minute of silence.

On 24 April 2017, more than 1500 school children participated in the ceremony at Anzac Square, Brisbane. They represented almost 100 schools from as far north as Gympie and as far south as the Gold Coast.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said she was proud to see so many young people embracing the Anzac spirit.

“The students at today’s ceremony have represented their schools with pride, honouring Anzac traditions

and paying their solemn respects to those who have served our country,” Ms Palaszczuk said.

“Although over 100 years have passed since our soldiers braved Gallipoli, the students here today have demonstrated that the Anzac spirit lives on in our younger generations.”

By committing their time and energy each year, these children and all Anzac Day attendees ensure that Australian servicemen and women receive the fullest recognition and undying fame—just as Sir Hamilton promised.

Top left: Sparkefilms History Contingent in replica First World War regalia.

Top right: The Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and family members of 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight Association.



When we fought on Australian soil

With the country's military personnel fighting abroad in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, it was up to everyday civilians to manage the defences when the Second World War threatened Australian shores.

Early during the Second World War, the Pacific quickly became a major theatre of war and many Australians were concerned the country's northern coast was vulnerable to attack. At the time, Townsville was home to the most important air base in Australia, while Darwin was being used as a military base and naval port with about 15,000 Allied personnel.

These concerns were justified. On 19 February 1942, the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Darwin, killing 252 people and wounding more than 300. The attack destroyed 20 military aircraft and eight ships, and most civil and military facilities in the town were ruined.

It was the first time in our history that we had come under direct attack by a foreign power, and it was devastating.

Australians were not prepared to give up without a fight. Notices calling on all willing men and women to pick up arms were published in newspapers nationwide.

The Cairns Post reported: "Should the occasion arise, the main functions of the corps will be to cooperate with the militia to cope with landing parties, parachute troops, or raids by hostile ships... engage in guerrilla warfare...to play his part in defending Australia, he and his colleagues must be competent to delay, harass, and perhaps totally defeat an invader's plans."

Teachers, housewives, mechanics, railway workers, librarians, retirees, returned soldiers and many others joined the Volunteer Defence Corps—the makeshift army that would

Top: Volunteers Eileen Wallace and Mona Parnell help to garnish camouflage netting for the Allied Forces, in Brisbane, 1942.



Top: Australian soldiers firing mortars from a coastal fortress near Brisbane, 1942.

Inset: Volunteer wardens practice extinguishing an oil incendiary bomb with sand mats, 1942.



protect the country. In Queensland alone, more than 17,500 men and women answered the call.

“In the face of a very possible invasion, everybody—no matter what their station, their position or their expertise—pulled together to be sure Australia was ready.”

**Major Patrick O’Keeffe OAM (Retired),
Battle for Australia Commemoration
Committee (Queensland) president.**

The Volunteer Defence Corps performed regular coastal patrols, reporting on all ship and plane sightings. While the men trained to use mortars and automatic weapons, the women studied field medicine and implemented a statewide ambulance squadron. Volunteers built homemade bombs

and crafted makeshift rifles out of timber and tin. Whole towns banded together to implement blackouts and air raid drills. Engineers compiled reports on potential bridge and road demolitions that would halt the enemy advance.

The threat was real for all Australians. Enemy submarines famously entered Sydney Harbour on 31 May 1942, sinking the HMAS *Kuttabul*. On 22 January 1943, the HMAS *Patricia Cam* was attacked and sunk near the Wessel Islands in the Northern Territory. And on 14 May 1943, the Australian hospital ship AHS *Centaur* was sunk off the Queensland coast. Skirmishes continued all around the Australian coastline well into November 1943; conservative accounts indicate more than 110 engagements across 38 regions.

Despite these tragic events, the vigilance of the Volunteer Defence Corps helped ensure that the enemy never gained a foothold on Australian soil.

In 2008, Governor-General Michael Jeffery signed a proclamation declaring the first Wednesday of September as Battle for Australia Day. This annual day of commemoration has helped raise the profile of this incredible chapter in Australia’s military history.

In 2017, hundreds gathered for a commemorative ceremony at the Chermside Historical Precinct. The event marked the 75th anniversary, and both young and old joined together to remember when we fought for Australia.



From ruined forest to regional Queensland

On 26 September 1917, soldiers of the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions fought their way through treacherous mud and past heavily-fortified German bunkers to capture Polygon Wood, Belgium. It was a resounding success for the Australians that greatly contributed to the allied force's advance on the Western Front.

One hundred years later, communities across Queensland gathered to pay their respects to the men who fought and died during the Battle of Polygon Wood. More than 500 people attended ceremonies in Cairns, Rockhampton and Roma, including descendants of those who served at Polygon Wood and current serving defence force personnel. At each service, they planted commemorative trees to provide a living reminder of the sacrifices the Queensland soldiers made.

Uncovered connections

At the event in Rockhampton, Mayor Margaret Strelow shared how preparations for the Polygon Wood commemorations prompted her to look closely at her own family tree. She was taken aback by what she discovered.

Cr Strelow's great grand-uncle, James Oakes, was there amidst the mud and chaos on those terrible days in 1917.

"I was saddened, touched, probably any number of emotions—I didn't know my uncle but realised that I also had a blood connection with this battle," Cr Strelow said.

Her research was inspired by the story of Farrier Sergeant John Wynd, a Rockhampton local who was just 20 years old when he enlisted.

"The young John Wynd who we learnt about was an apprentice—he worked in Kent Street, he went to Allenstown School," Cr Strelow said.

"It becomes very personal for all of us, I think, when we put it in terms of the streets that we know, the schools that we know, and realise this was just a normal bloke who had a very ordinary life and then went off and participated in a war which was fundamental to saving our free way of life."

During the First World War, almost one in 11 Australians enlisted, and many more supported in non-military roles. With such a large proportion of the population involved, it is likely that many Australians are connected with the First World War without realising.

"If you know your family tree, go and do a search. I think many Australians will be surprised to realise how close their own forebears were to some of these extraordinary battles we're commemorating," Cr Strelow said.

Top: Members of the 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion lay planks of wood over the mud to make a wagon track through the Ypres Sector.



Proud history

Some families do not need to go digging to discover their military history. For 93 year-old Yvonne Leigh, her connection to the Battle of Polygon Wood was always evident. Her father, Private Harry Schell, was a veteran of the battle and on his return to Australia, he named the family home after the plantation forest.

“He was a stretcher bearer and saw some terrible things,” Ms Leigh said at the commemorative ceremony in Cairns.

“But he was a very happy man, I can hear him singing now out in the garden.”

Private Schell did not speak much about his experiences, but Ms Leigh recalls one of his comrades would often visit on Sunday mornings and only had great things to say about ‘the man who saved his life’. It remains one of her most cherished memories.

Jaclyn Hine from Brisbane had similar impressions of her grand-uncle, Lance Corporal David Murphy, the youngest brother of her grandfather. He was just 22 years old when he enlisted, and was promoted to Lance Corporal just days before his death during the Battle of Polygon Wood.

“My mother often spoke of Dave, always with tears in her eyes,” Ms Hine said.

Sadly, Lance Corporal Murphy was one of countless Australian men who died at Polygon Wood and never received a proper burial. This may be what led Ms Hine to travel throughout Europe, tracking down the final resting places of servicemen from the Roma area.

She uncovered incredible stories through her travels and research. Ms Hine discovered that one of Lance Corporal Murphy’s friends and colleagues from Roma, Private Neil McMaster Crawford, was killed on the same day in the same area, also with no known grave.

Top left: Yvonne Leigh’s father, Private Harry Schell, served in the Battle of Polygon Wood.

Top right: Lance Corporal David Murphy excelled at sport, playing representative rugby before enlisting. Jaclyn Hine (pictured) has his Roma Rugby Union Community Football Club velvet cap dated 1912–1913.



Her research also put her in contact with Brian Hanlon, whose grandfather Private Garnet Michael 'Mick' Hanlon also served with Lance Corporal Murphy. Mr Hanlon was able to share a photograph taken during the war of his grandfather and an unknown companion alongside Lance Corporal Murphy—the last known image of the brave young soldier.

“It was a wonderful thing to receive,” Ms Hine said.

“Since then, Brian and I have marched together on Anzac Day with the RSL here in Roma, which was another special moment.”

Children connected

In addition to the ceremonies, selected libraries in Cairns, Cloncurry, Roma and Rockhampton hosted installations for younger generations to learn about Polygon Wood, the Anzac values and their local soldiers who fought in this battle.

The Polygon Wood patchwork trees were extremely popular. Hundreds of children coloured in polygon-shaped leaves depicting Anzac values and attached them to the trees. The display helped children better understand the values our Anzacs stand for: mateship, courage, duty, teamwork and integrity. Some library teams even had to prune back their patchwork trees, as each branch was absolutely blooming with countless Anzac value leaves.

A special thank you to Cairns, Rockhampton and Maranoa Regional Councils and Cloncurry Shire Council for helping Queensland honour this special anniversary.



Top left: Lance Corporal David Murphy, Private Garnet Michael 'Mick' Hanlon and an unknown companion, on leave prior to the Battle of Polygon Wood.

Top right: Hon Bill Byrne MP, Cr Margaret Strelow and descendant Jon Cookson plant a tree in memory of local servicemen at Rockhampton Botanic Gardens.

Right: Children helped the Polygon Wood peace trees bloom with colourful Anzac value leaves.



Who is your local soldier?

Commander Colonel Frederick William Hall
1881 and 1882, 1883

1881 and 1882, 1883

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Commemorating the
100th anniversary of
The Battle of
Polygon
Wood 2017

Honouring a great Australian charge

The Australian Light Horse demonstrated exemplary courage, dedication and ingenuity when they charged the trenches and captured the town of Beersheba during the famed battle of 31 October 1917. One hundred years on, Queensland communities continue to commemorate how these incredible men and their horses changed the tide of the First World War in the Middle East.





An Australian Light Horse patrol passing through Zernukah, Israel 1914-1918.

“These men were hardy, resourceful and thoroughly independent, with a wonderful sense of adventure.”

That is how Honor Auchinleck describes the men of the Australian Light Horse, particularly her grandfather, the famed commander Lieutenant General Sir Harry Chauvel, KCMG, KCB and Croix de Guerre.

At no time were these admirable attributes more apparent than during the Battle of Beersheba, when the

Australian Light Horse thundered across the desert plains, bayonets in hand, to capture the town of Beersheba. They could not have known it as they leapt over the Turkish trenches, but the men were riding into history. Their actions on that decisive day, now regarded as Australia’s last great cavalry charge, continue to inspire.

Central West Queensland commemorates

When planning the Queensland Mounted Infantry Historical Troop’s (QMIHT) commemorations for Beersheba, organisers Jed Millen and Debbie Nicholls were in no doubt where events should take place.

“When we started to talk about it, we were thinking about South East Queensland, but the Central West is where many of the Queensland men and the horses came from,” Ms Nicholls said.

For 10 days in September 2017, riders from QMIHT joined other troops from Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and even New Zealand for *In Pursuit of Beersheba*, a series of commemorative rides, ceremonies and activities throughout Central West Queensland.

The 90-strong contingent of riders passed through Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Longreach and Winton, helping these communities pay tribute to the Australian Light Horse and their daring exploits.

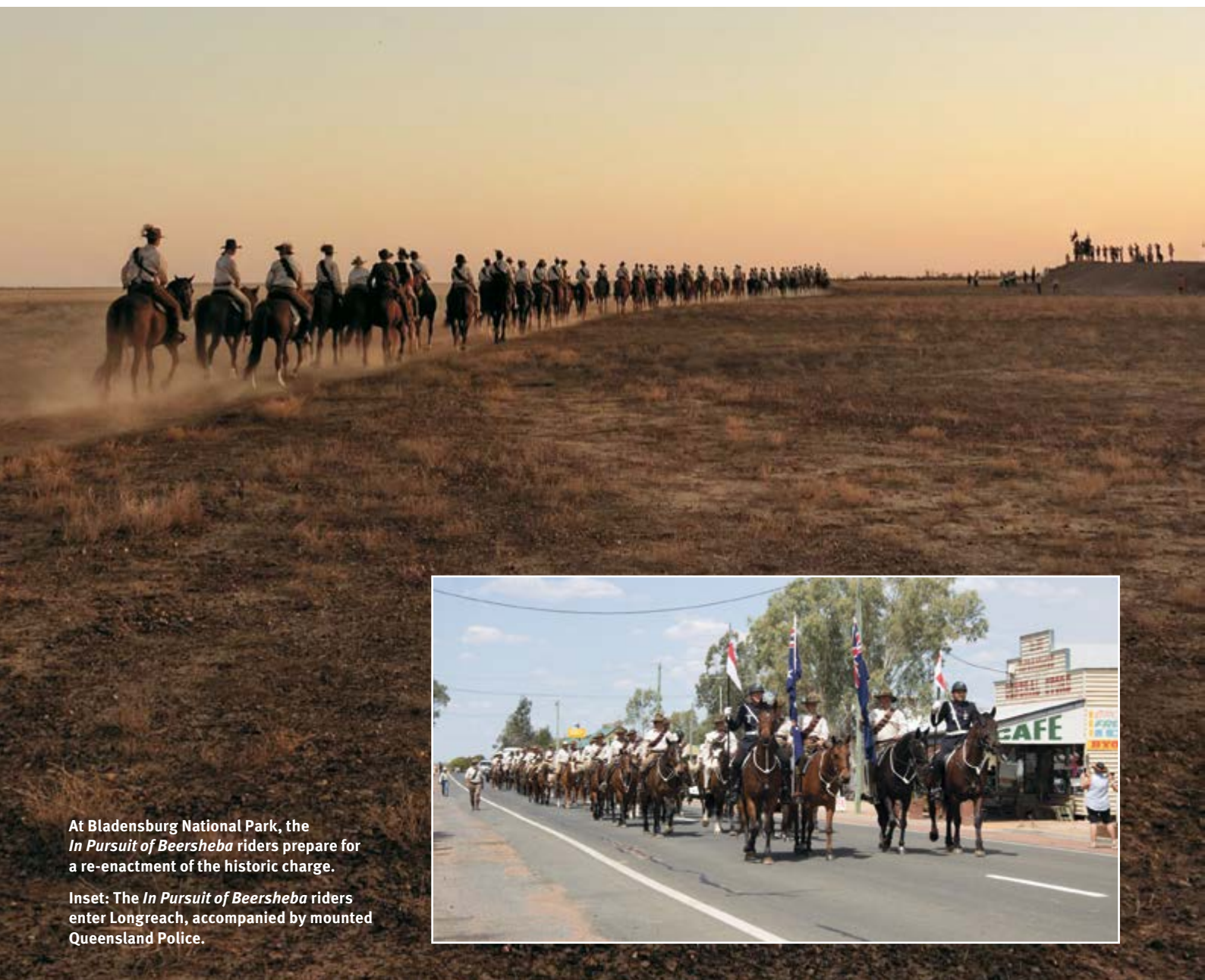
The ride was well-received by the locals, many of whom were already exceedingly proud of their servicemen and women, past and present. At the opening of Beersheba Place—a new commemorative garden in Longreach—Mayor Ed Warren said, “We are proud of our region’s contribution to the heritage of our nation. I would like Beersheba Place to remind all who come here of the great contribution made not only by the people who went to war, but by the horses who went with them.”

The participants are left with many treasured memories, such as the sight of the long line of riders against the setting sun in Bladensburg National Park. They had hidden behind a low ridge and, as the sky glowed pink and orange, they charged with bayonets in hand at the crowd gathered for the Winton Outback Festival—a truly stirring scene.

With a larrikinism of which the Australian Light Horse of old were also known, Mr Millen remarked, “The experience has left me with a tear in my throat and a lump in my eye.”

International commemorations

Hundreds of Australians joined the commemorations in modern-day Beersheba, Israel, on 31 October 2017, with His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, officially representing Queensland. Following a solemn ceremony, the Australian Light Horse Association treated the crowd to a thunderous re-enactment of the legendary charge. This troop of 100 riders included individuals from *In Pursuit of Beersheba* and many descendants, as well as representatives of the Indigenous men who served in the Australian Light Horse—a group whose involvement is often tragically overlooked.



At Bladensburg National Park, the *In Pursuit of Beersheba* riders prepare for a re-enactment of the historic charge.

Inset: The *In Pursuit of Beersheba* riders enter Longreach, accompanied by mounted Queensland Police.

A show of force

On 28 October 2017, the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) commemorated the Battle of Beersheba by exercising their Right to Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane.

It was a truly impressive event. After an inspection by Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and a challenge from mounted Queensland Police, the regiment paraded through the city with swords and lances drawn, drums beating and colours flying. The lines of infantry, horses and more than 65 military vehicles—including massive, armoured M1A1 Abrams tanks—delighted the crowds. It was the first time these incredible machines had been seen on Brisbane's streets.

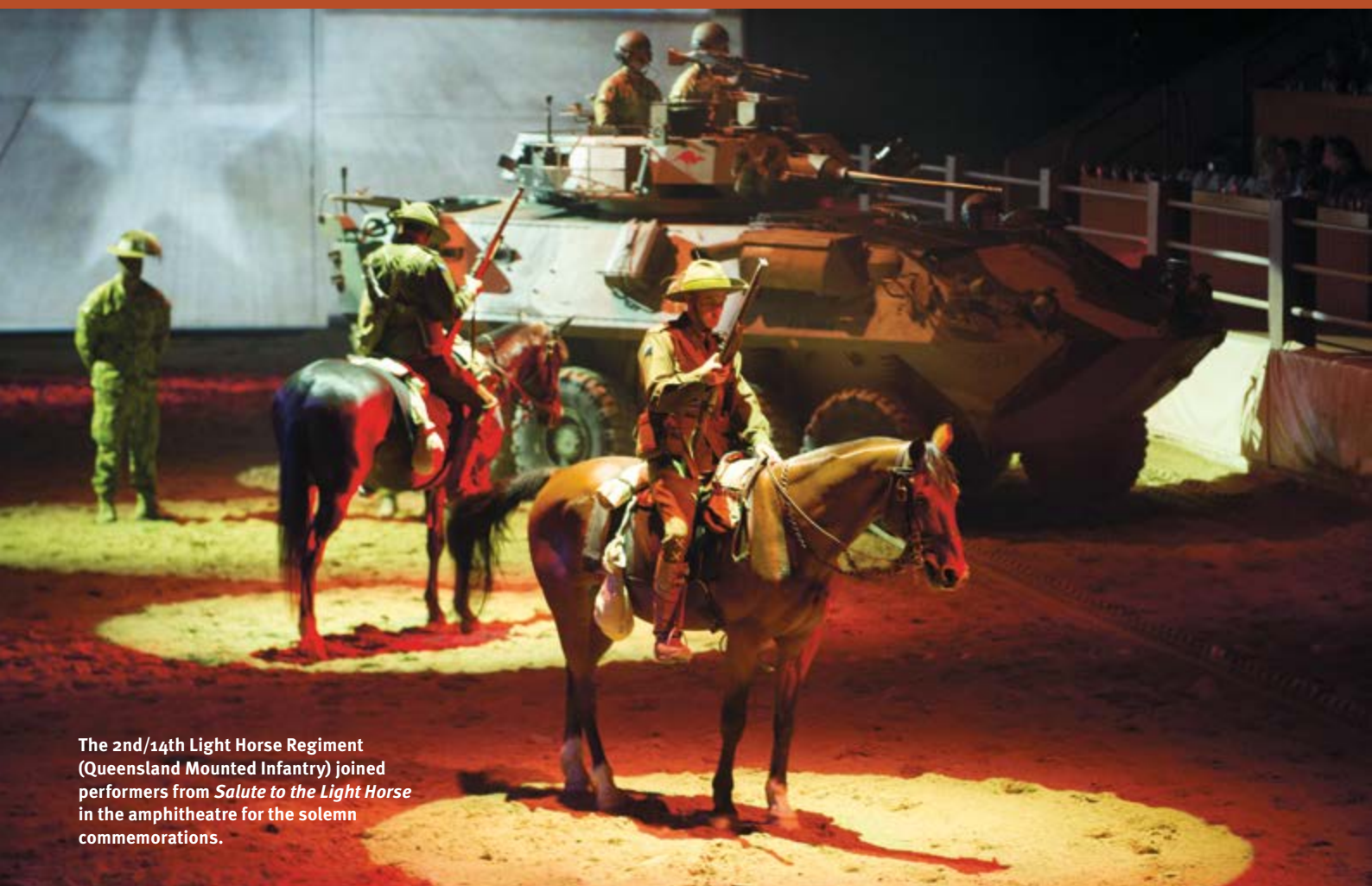
Granting of Freedom of Entry is the highest accolade a town or city can bestow on a contingent of the Australian Defence Force. By turning out in force to support this parade just prior to the centenary anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, Queenslanders made it clear just how highly it values the men and women of the Australian Light Horse, past and present.

Top: The Colours of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) move past the dais on board an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle during the Freedom of Entry march.

Middle: With more than 150 troops, 20 horses and 65 military vehicles involved, it was the regiment's largest ever mounted Freedom of Entry march into Brisbane City.

Bottom: Soldiers from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) march past the dais during the Freedom of Entry march.





The 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) joined performers from *Salute to the Light Horse* in the amphitheatre for the solemn commemorations.

A spectacular ceremony

The excitement was palpable as 1700 South East Queensland schoolchildren poured into the amphitheatre at Australian Outback Spectacular, Gold Coast, for a special commemorative ceremony. It was the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, and the stage was set for an Anzac experience these children would treasure for many years.

Australian Outback Spectacular's riders and horses took to the ring to perform excerpts from

Salute to the Light Horse—a dramatic retelling of the events at Beersheba.

The children were captivated by the insights from Lieutenant General Sir Chauvel's descendants and poet Dennis Scanlon's evocative descriptions of the Australian Imperial Force's 121,000 Waler horses. A cheer went up as the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) burst into the amphitheatre, roaring around the ring in their imposing Australian Light Armoured Vehicles.

Charlotte Solomon, Somerville House student and a recipient of the 2017 Premier's Anzac Prize, read *The Ode*, which has been a key feature of commemorative ceremonies in Australia since 1921.

The delighted faces and excited chatter as the students left the amphitheatre suggested the Australian Light Horse's heroics at Beersheba would be a hot topic of discussion around classrooms and playgrounds in Queensland for weeks.



“Our students and teachers were absolutely amazed by the presentation. Any opportunity to immerse our students in such events is truly worthwhile.”

Greg Kenafake, Head of Department,
Social Science, Southport State High.

“Many thanks for the management of the wonderful performance for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. The children talked endlessly about the performance on the bus trip back to school.”

Val Faulks, Principal,
Biggera Waters State School.



Top: Salute to the Light Horse performers greet the arriving students.

Bottom: 1700 South East Queensland schoolchildren excitedly attended the commemorations at Australian Outback Spectacular.



Remember our Anzacs

The promise of dazzling fireworks and the Royal Australian Air Force Roulettes' breathtaking aerial acrobatics were not the only reason families gathered excitedly at Brisbane's South Bank on 30 September 2017. Many Riverfire attendees were thrilled to join Queensland Anzac Centenary to learn about 100 years of Australia's military history.

Following its success in 2014 and 2016, *Remember our Anzacs* in 2017 drew more than 5000 visitors. They were treated to an incredible array of military exhibits, performances and activities that highlighted the Battles of Polygon Wood and Beersheba.

The entry to the piazza was decorated with lush greenery—a collection of Polygon Wood peace trees, inspired by the forest that has regrown at Polygon Wood in the 100 years since that terrible battle. After learning about the challenges Australian troops faced in the muddy trenches, visitors were encouraged to write a message of gratitude to current serving personnel and tie it to the branches of the peace trees.

Written by young and old, here is just a small selection of the many heartfelt messages for our current defence force personnel:

"It is difficult to express just how grateful we are. Thank you!"

"You keep us safe and promote peace. We cannot thank you enough!"

"Thank you for all you have done for all of us. I know it's hard... but you are doing a great job."

"It's hard when your loved ones are left behind, but that's what you have to look forward to when you get back. Keep on pushing through the pain, sweat and tears—I really love your work and appreciate everything you do."

"I hope, wherever you are, that you are safe and not too far from a visit home. For all that you do—thank you."

"May you know that our thoughts and prayers are always with you. Thank you for your courage and sacrifice."

"You have my respect for everything you do."

Top: More than 5000 visitors attended the event, enjoying musical performances, poetry readings, museum displays, crafts and more.

While the peace trees presented an opportunity for quiet reflection, other parts of the piazza were filled with lively activities to entertain the crowds.

Children clambered over the Royal Australian Navy's Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat and were delighted to be up-close to the monstrous Australian Light Armoured Vehicles, on site courtesy of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry).

The Army Museum South Queensland and Light Horse Art Gallery shared fascinating artefacts and artwork detailing Australia's involvement in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign—the First World War battles that included events at Beersheba.

Toes tapped to the incredible soundtrack, with big band music from the Royal Australian Navy Band Queensland, modern rock from the Australian Army Band Brisbane, and folk from Mark Cryle and Carmel Newman. Between performances, bush poet Dennis Scanlon had the crowd mesmerised with couplets and ballads that conjured famous Anzac scenes.

For many, Gilbert and his mare completely stole the show. These two majestic Waler horses, accompanied by riders in replica First World War regalia, were treated to thousands of affectionate pats throughout the afternoon.

Thank you to the many civilian and military volunteers who made this event possible. During the Anzac Centenary, it is important to give everyday Australians their own Anzac experience to cherish and share. Judging by the smiles, this was certainly the case at *Remember our Anzacs*.



Captain Adele Catts and volunteers display items from the Queensland Light Horse Museum collection.



John and Claire Stewart of Queensland Mounted Infantry Historical Troop, with their beloved mounts.



Archie Williams 'steers' the Royal Australian Navy's Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boat with Leading Seaman Jeannette D'Arcy.



Debate and debacle: a second vote on conscription

Unlike the major European military forces, the Australian Imperial Force was entirely manned by volunteers. After the disastrous Gallipoli campaign, enlistments declined and Prime Minister William ‘Billy’ Hughes announced on 7 November 1917 that he would again put the question of conscription to the Australian public—igniting fierce debate that sometimes boiled over into violence.

Top left: Much of the propaganda targeted women with emotionally charged appeals—to save fathers and sons from the front lines, or save them from the embarrassment of being labelled a coward.

Top right: Many Australians, including the Prime Minister, hoped the outcome of this second referendum would “right the wrongs” of the first.

The country had already voted on the issue the previous year, but Prime Minister Hughes’s hopes to conscript men to fight had been dashed. The defeat resulted in the Prime Minister’s expulsion from his party. It could have ended his career, but in a deft political manoeuvre, he retained the leadership by convincing 23 colleagues to join his newly formed United Labor Party.

Throughout 1917, pressure from the British Government was unrelenting. When they tasked the Australian Government with forming a sixth division, conscription seemed the obvious answer for the Prime Minister.

The public was presented with a slightly different proposition in 1917—voluntary enlistment would continue but 20–44 year old single men, widowers and divorcees without dependents could be called up by ballot to make up the shortfall.

While there was only six weeks between the announcement of a second referendum and the vote, the debate reached

a fever pitch leading to some truly extraordinary scenes.

Leaders at odds

Queensland Premier T J Ryan became a leading force in the anti-conscription campaign. While he supported Australia’s involvement in the war and the need for reinforcements, he believed men should not be forced to enlist—and was the only state leader to say so openly.

Premier Ryan had already drawn the Prime Minister’s ire following the first referendum, having refused his request for state police to crack down on anti-conscription activities.

Then, at a public meeting on 19 November 1917, Premier Ryan gave an impassioned speech outlining his stance against conscription. The Prime Minister forbade anyone from printing or distributing copies of the speech, and the Premier countered by re-reading the censored content within Queensland Parliament on 22 November 1917, expressly so it would be recorded in Hansard.



Premier Ryan also planned to have 10,000 copies of the record printed and made available to the public.

Incensed, Prime Minister Hughes responded by ordering a military raid on the Queensland Government Printing Office, intending to destroy all copies of the speech, including the official Hansard. This resulted in a tense standoff between state police and Commonwealth officers on the steps of the printing office, and a drawn out legal dispute between the Prime Minister and Premier.

The Warwick egg incident

Perhaps to counter Premier Ryan's vocal anti-conscription position, Prime Minister Hughes toured southern Queensland in the weeks leading up to the vote.

Stories differ on what actually occurred during the Prime Minister's speech at Warwick on 29 November 1917. The mildest accounts describe how the Prime Minister's hat had been knocked off by a lone thrown egg. The most lurid accounts detail him being pelted with a volley

of eggs, leading to a violent struggle involving men armed with hammers and heavy tools.

Brothers Barth and Patrick Brosnan were identified as the source of the trouble. Despite the urging of the Prime Minister, the local police wouldn't arrest the brothers, stating the pair had not broken any state laws.

Coming so soon after the incident at the printing office, the Prime Minister could no longer abide what he saw as rogue actions by the state. He quickly established a new Commonwealth police force that would uphold Federal authority. Within the fortnight, Hughes appointed his first Commonwealth Police Commissioner to lead the organisation now known as the Australian Federal Police.

Outcome

When the nation went to the polls on 20 December 1917, the proposal for conscription was again defeated, this time with a more significant margin of 46 per cent for and 54 per cent against. The turnout was greater than in any previous referenda.

As a closing chapter to this strange period, Prime Minister Hughes kept a promise made in the lead up to the vote and resigned on 8 January 1918. However, as his party did nothing to replace him, the Governor-General swore him back into office two days later.

It was a truly astounding end to the debate and debacle surrounding Australia's conscription referenda.

Top: Australian soldiers could vote, including these troops on leave from the front. Collectively, the soldiers' vote returned in favour of conscription, however individuals who had faced the hardships of the Western Front tended to vote against.



2017: many reasons to reflect

Australians remembered many significant military events throughout 2017. Whether from the First World War or a recent peacekeeping or relief mission, each anniversary from the past 100 years is an important opportunity to honour those who have answered the call during times of need and made personal sacrifices for the nation's benefit.

Fall of Singapore, 15 February 1942, Second World War

After successfully capturing Malaya in just eight weeks, the Japanese forces turned their attention to Singapore, believing the British bases there to be a serious threat. The invasion on 8 February 1942 began with an intense ground and air bombardment, providing cover for the 13,000 Japanese soldiers crossing the narrow Straits of Johore—some even swimming.

The Australian units were understrength and thinly spread. Despite many brave stands,

the Allied Forces and more than a million civilians were confined to Singapore City by 14 February 1942. With the Japanese having cut water supplies and continuing to bomb the city, and the Allied Forces running low on ammunition and fuel, the British commander issued a surrender at 8.30pm on 15 February 1942.

In the following days, the 130,000 Allied troops—including 22,000 Australians—were moved to the notorious Changi prisoner of war camp. One in three Australian captives would die in labour camps throughout Asia, including on the infamous Thai-Burma railway.



End of the Sinai Campaign, 28 February 1917, First World War

Australian Light Horse regiments and No.1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, assisted the British in their fight against Turkish forces on the Sinai peninsula for more than two years. Both sides wanted to claim the Suez Canal and secure access to the Palestine front.

The Turkish forces were already in retreat, following a devastating defeat at the Battle of Romani on 4–5 August 1916. The allied forces pursued the Turkish troops, capturing Magdhaba on 23 December 1916 and Rafa on 9 January 1917. With the defeat of the final Turkish garrison on 28 February 1917, the allied forces took control of the Sinai peninsula.



Operation Bribie, 17 February 1967, Vietnam War

Also known as the Battle of Ap My An, Operation Bribie was hastily planned in response to communist forces destroying the village of Lang Phuoc Hai. The 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and the armoured personnel carriers of A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, expected to engage a small, scattered group of soldiers. Instead, they were ambushed by a large, heavily-armed and well-hidden Viet Cong force.

Through five hours of intense combat, eight Australians were killed and another 27 wounded. It is now remembered as one of Australia's worst days in Vietnam.

Battle of the Coral Sea, 4–8 May 1942, Second World War

Looking to strengthen their formidable position in the South Pacific, the Japanese forces moved to take control of the Solomon Islands and Port Moresby, New Guinea.

The Allied Forces learned of their plans, in part due to the efforts of Australian signals intelligence units, coastwatchers and aerial reconnaissance. The subsequent naval battle involved Australian Task Force 44, consisting of the heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia*, the light cruiser HMAS *Hobart*, the US aircraft carriers USS *Yorktown* and USS *Lexington* and many smaller ships. This task force had been

established to engage the Japanese and ensure the supply routes through the Coral Sea remained open.

It was a historic five-day engagement. For the first time, the battle was fought with aircraft firing upon ships instead of direct ship-to-ship confrontations. While a tactical victory for the Japanese, the Battle of the Coral Sea paved the way for future Allied successes in the region.

Top left: The camel transport carrying rations for personnel of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade at Rafa.

Top right: Helicopters transporting troops during Operation Bribie.

Bottom right: A group of prisoners of war photographed at Changi prisoner of war camp shortly after the surrender of the Japanese, 1945.



Sinking of *Montevideo Maru*, 1 July 1942, Second World War

The Imperial Japanese Navy used the MV *Montevideo Maru*, which was originally a passenger vessel, to transport troops and provisions during the Second World War. On 1 July 1942, the US submarine USS *Sturgeon* encountered the ship off the northern coast of Luzon, Philippines and, unaware it was transporting Australian prisoners of war, attacked with torpedoes. The *Montevideo Maru* sank in less than 11 minutes. The prisoners were not assisted to abandon ship, and an estimated 845 Australian military personnel and up to 208 civilians perished. It is considered the worst maritime disaster in Australia's history.

Battles of El Alamein, July – 4 November 1942, Second World War

The 9th Australian Division played a critical role in a number of costly battles around the small town of El Alamein on the Egyptian coast, primarily to inhibit the Axis forces' access to the heavily populated areas of eastern Egypt.

They experienced the most ferocious fighting in the last battle, between 26 October and 2 November 1942. The Australians were charged with attacking the Germans' most heavily-defended, critical positions to allow the British forces to break through the line.

It was a costly engagement, with 620 Australians killed and another 1944 injured in the final days of battle. However, it was the Allied Forces' first great victory of the Second World War and resulted in Germany's complete withdrawal from Egypt.

Kokoda Trail campaign, 21 July 1942 – 22 January 1943, Second World War

Intent on securing the crucial town of Port Moresby, the Japanese began an overland assault along the Kokoda Trail on 21 July 1942. The Australian and Papuan efforts to stop the advance at Awala on 23 July 1942 were unsuccessful; they lacked effective jungle warfare tactics, and the perilous track made it difficult to get supplies to the front. The Australians were forced back for two months until they gained a foothold at Imita Ridge, just eight kilometres from the road to Port Moresby.

They began edging forward from the ridge on 23 September 1942. The Japanese forces ordered all troops to withdraw to the north coast of Papua on 24 September 1942 after suffering severe losses at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The Australians pursued the retreating Japanese, engaging them in many vicious, costly battles along the track. The last enemy defences at the end of the overland route finally fell on 22 January 1943.

Top: Australian soldiers had to provide the 'horse power' in hauling supplies—including aircraft—along the Kokoda Trail to camp.



During this time, the Japanese came closer to Australia than ever before. For many, halting the Japanese advance along Kokoda Trail represents Australia's most significant achievement of the Second World War. However, approximately 625 Australians were killed and more than 1600 were wounded. The harsh, exhausting conditions proved to be an equally formidable foe, with casualties due to sickness exceeding 4000.

Sinking of HMAS *Canberra*, 9 August 1942, Second World War

The heavy cruiser HMAS *Canberra* was one of several Australian ships assisting the US Navy to protect the landing operations at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. In the early morning of 9 August 1942, seven Japanese cruisers and a destroyer launched a surprise attack. As the lead ship, the *Canberra* bore the full force of the attack. In less than two minutes, it was struck by two torpedoes and more than 20 salvos of 8-inch shellfire. The Royal Australian Navy suffered 193 casualties, including 84 killed. The damage to the

Canberra was so severe that the ship was abandoned and later sunk by a torpedo from a US destroyer.

Battle of Milne Bay, 25 August – 7 September 1942, Second World War

Fought around a deep natural harbour at the eastern tip of New Guinea, this battle proved to be a crucial victory for Australian troops during the Second World War. The Japanese had been in New Guinea for five months, and moved to capture Milne Bay as they progressed towards Port Moresby. They were held off by Allied troops, including the Australian 7th and 18th Infantry Brigades, with support from the 75 and 76 Squadrons, Royal Australian Air Force.

The Japanese evacuated after 12 days of intense fighting through jungle and swamp. Although 167 Australians and 14 American troops were killed, Milne Bay was a turning point of the war in the Pacific and is remembered as the first decisive defeat of the Japanese on land.

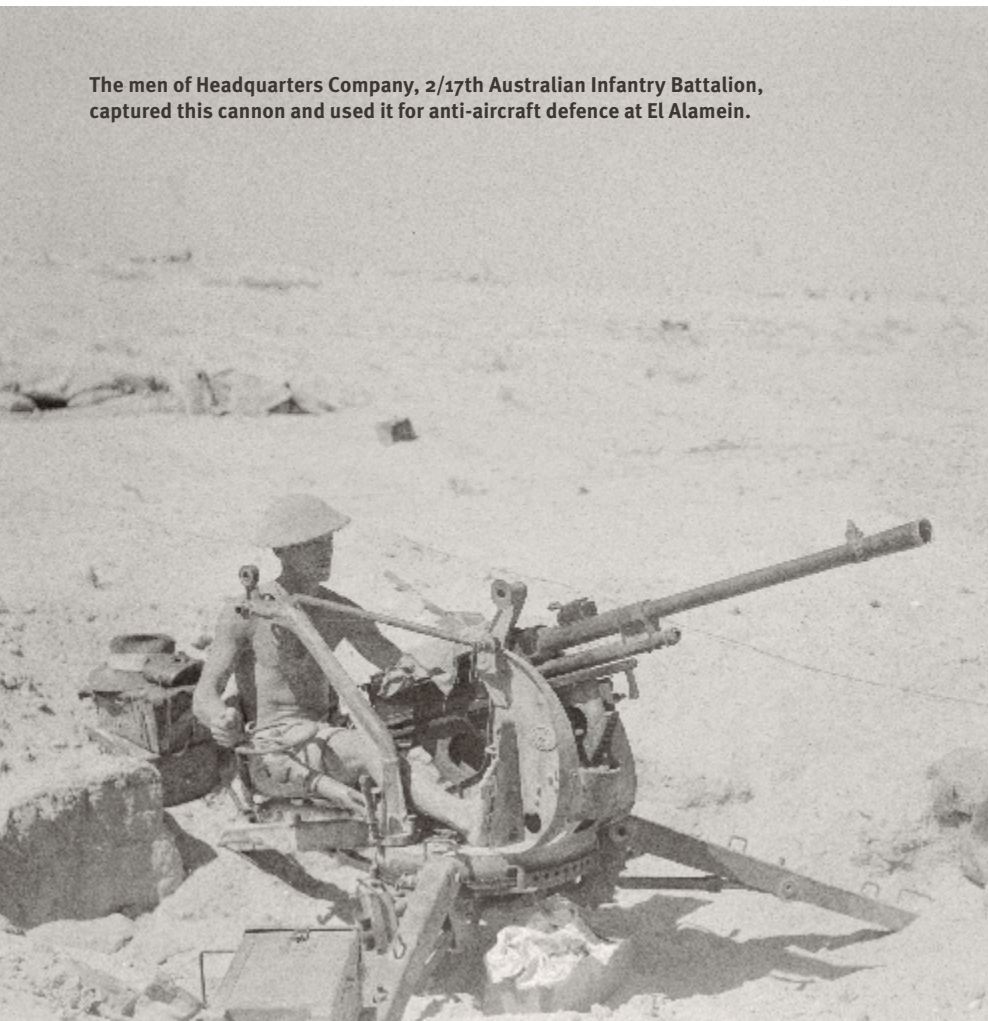
Battle of Menin Road, 20–25 September 1917, First World War

The Battle of Menin Road was the first offensive during the Third Battle of Ypres to utilise Australian troops. The operation used a new 'leapfrog' method of advance, with the infantry slowly moving forward across the Belgian countryside behind a fiery barrage of British artillery.

The allied forces successfully recaptured many sections of the curving ridge that Menin Road crossed. The troops were also able to reach Glencourse Wood and Polygon Wood—two greatly contested sites that would feature heavily in future campaigns. However, their victory came at the cost of more than 5000 casualties.

Top: Australian troops plough through the mud at Milne Bay shortly after the unsuccessful Japanese invasion attempt.

The men of Headquarters Company, 2/17th Australian Infantry Battalion, captured this cannon and used it for anti-aircraft defence at El Alamein.



Battle of Broodseinde Ridge, 4 October 1917, First World War

This was a large operation during the Third Battle of Ypres which saw the allied forces advancing 900–1700 metres to capture the high ground around the village of Broodseinde, Belgium.

The Australian troops were subjected to targeted German artillery fire while moving into position before dawn. Almost one in seven men from the 1st Division were killed or wounded. They pushed forward despite the heavy losses, only to meet the German infantry who had launched an offensive of their own. The Australians advanced through the enemy attackers to capture all objectives along the ridge, but at a cost of 6500 casualties.

Broodseinde represented a significant defeat for the German forces. The allies took the entirety of the high ground around Passchendaele, which would prove tactically important during the later offensive to capture this key town.

Battle of Passchendaele, 12 October 1917, First World War

After the Australians captured Broodseinde Ridge, the British commanders believed they were in a strong position to capture the village of Passchendaele, Belgium, and effectively end the Third Battle of Ypres. An initial attempt was made on 9 October 1917 but the allies made limited gains through the terrible mud.

Australian troops led a second attempt on 12 October 1917. Unlike previous engagements in the Third Battle of



Ypres, the infantry could not advance behind a devastating line of artillery fire. The men pushed forward through the quagmire regardless, but the wretched mud slowed their advance and they faced many heavily-defended German pillboxes. A few troops reached the edge of Passchendaele but could not hold the ground and had to retreat. In this single day of fighting, the Australian divisions suffered more than 4000 casualties.

Sinking of HMAS *Armidale*, 1 December 1942, Second World War

On 24 November 1942, the HMAS *Armidale* joined HMAS *Castlemaine* and HMAS *Kuru* on a relief operation to rescue civilians and support Australian troops in Japanese occupied Timor. Each vessel was to make two runs



Wounded Australians at rest after the Battle of Menin Road.

to Timor from Darwin. Although the *Kuru* endured a number of skirmishes with enemy bombers on her initial run, senior officers ordered the operation to continue.

In the early afternoon on 1 December 1942, the *Armidale*'s lookouts spotted a squadron of incoming Japanese bombers. The ship's gunners successfully held off the attack while waiting for fighter plane support from Darwin. But before they could arrive, the *Armidale* was attacked by nine bombers, three fighters and a float plane. The ship was hit twice by torpedoes and immediately began to sink. Only 43 of the 83 Royal Australian Navy personnel aboard survived and a number of Australian Imperial Force and Dutch service personnel also died.



Australian third line support troops occupying an enemy trench captured at Broodseinde Ridge.



Welcome home, Mephisto

After a delicate three-day operation, the imposing 33 tonne, eight metre long First World War tank has returned to Queensland.

For two years, the A7V Sturmpanzerwagen known as Mephisto was on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Its inclusion in the Anzac Hall exhibition, held as part of First World War centenary commemorations, was the first time Queensland's tremendous war trophy had been out of the state since its arrival in 1919.

For Queensland Museum Acting CEO Dr Jim Thompson, whose organisation is charged with the tank's preservation, Mephisto's homecoming was cause for celebration.

"Mephisto is one of Queensland Museum's most significant objects and we are pleased to have had an opportunity to share one of our state's best-known stories with a national audience."

"However, we are delighted to have the much-loved tank return home to Queensland," Dr Thompson said.

A titanic trophy

Mephisto is the last remaining A7V Sturmpanzerwagen, the first tank model deployed by the Germans on the battlefield. Only 18 of these war machines were built. They featured heavy guns on the front and machine guns on the rear, and could hold between 18 and 26 men.

On 24 April 1918, during the tank's second operation, Mephisto became stranded in a shell crater near Villers-Bretonneux and was abandoned. Two months later, a detachment of soldiers from the Australian Imperial Force, many of them Queenslanders, helped commandeer the tank and drag it behind allied lines. When the war



ended, the Australians shipped Mephisto back home. It was a mighty war trophy.

A carefully managed delivery

The 2017 operation to transport the 33 tonne machine from Canberra was surprisingly delicate. The museum conservators first carefully wrapped the tank and then, on 6 June 2017, the whole package was lifted onto the back of a flatbed truck. The conservators did not leave the tank's side throughout the journey north, which saw Mephisto arrive in Ipswich on 8 June 2017.

This carefully executed delivery is in stark contrast to Mephisto's first entry into Queensland. In 1919, the team used two steamrollers to drag the tank from Norman Wharf to Queensland Museum, which was then in Bowen Hills. It was difficult to

navigate turns and several buildings along the route were damaged as Mephisto was accidentally dragged along their facades. The tank's tough caterpillar tracks also made many deep gouges in the roads.

A tank by the tracks

While it is destined to feature in Queensland Museum's new Anzac Legacy Gallery—scheduled for completion in late 2018—Mephisto spent the remainder of 2017 on display among historic trains and railway artefacts at The Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich.

The tank was housed in a protective, dehumidified plastic bubble known as a carcoon. This additional protection was vital while specialist metals conservation work, begun at the Australian War Memorial,

continued. However, the covering didn't detract from the machine's imposing size and ferocity, and Mephisto continued to enthral and excite museum goers of all ages.

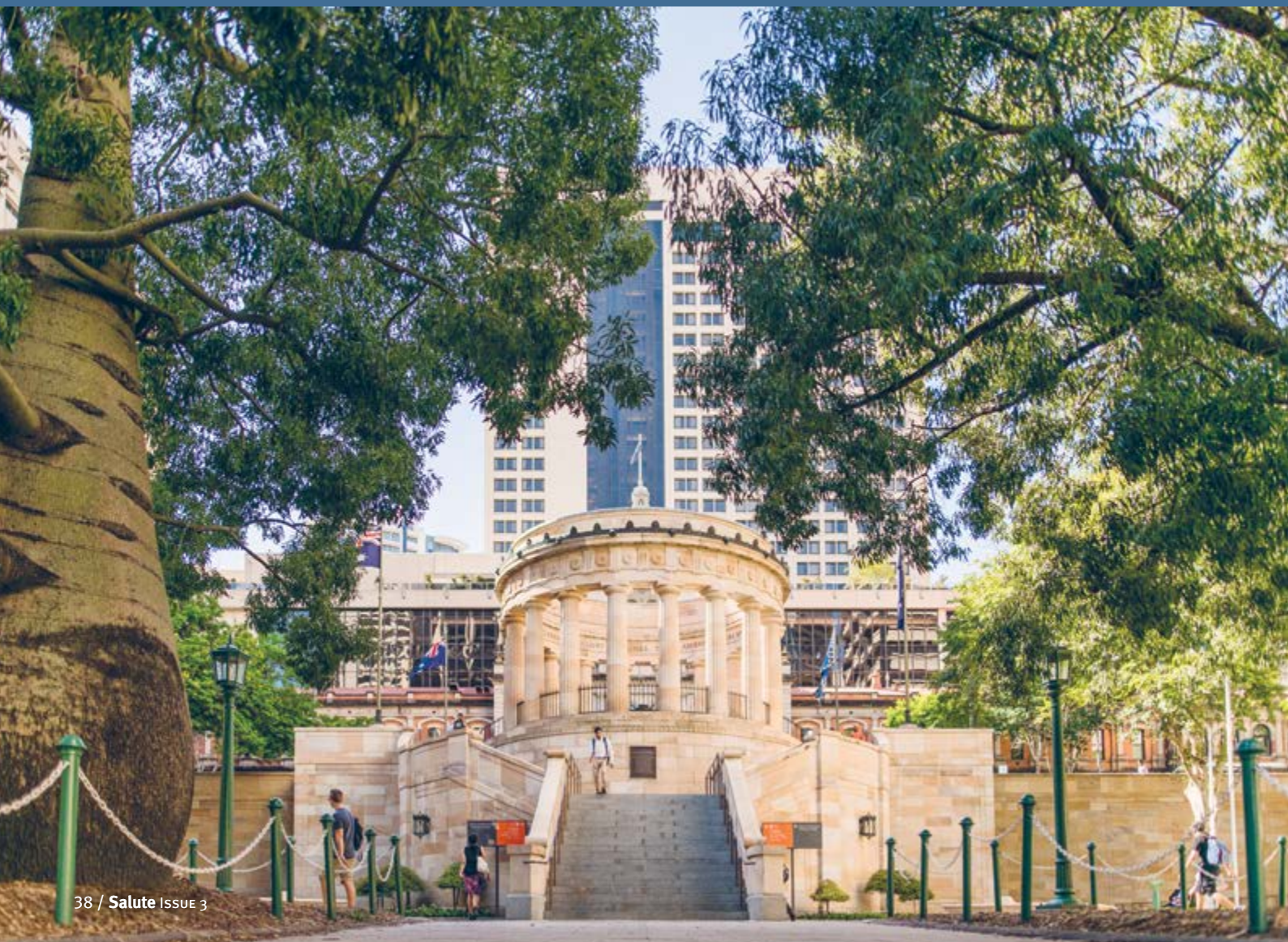
Top left: Steamrollers drag Mephisto through the gates of the Queensland Museum (now the Old Museum) in Bowen Hills, 1919.

Top right: Mephisto housed in a protective carcoon at The Workshops Rail Museum.

Anzac Square: symbolic tributes preserved

Since 2014, Brisbane City Council has led a dedicated team to restore and enhance Anzac Square War Memorial and Parkland—Queensland’s most significant site dedicated to the memory of our servicemen and women. The works must be carefully managed, as much of the memorial’s layout, architecture and ornamentation include symbolic elements that must be preserved for future generations.

The respectful, careful and sympathetic restoration and enhancement project work of this culturally important site has won Premier’s and National Trust awards for sustainable heritage conservation. But there’s more to this space than meets the eye, as the stairs, pathways and many other elements also convey important messages through symbolic references to the First World War.



Top right: Looking over one of the reflective pools to the Queensland Women's Memorial and drinking fountain, both sculpted by Daphne Mayo.

Bottom left: From the pathways to the columns, many elements at Anzac Square were designed with symbolic references to the First World War.

The Shrine

While completing their design of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1928, architects Buchanan and Cowper drew inspiration from the now-ruined Tholos at Epidauros, Greece. This monument also featured a ring of Doric columns and sat above a buried labyrinth. According to myth, the Tholos was a tomb for an ascended hero—fitting inspiration for Queensland's state memorial honouring defence force personnel.

A stone ring sits atop the columns of the Shrine of Remembrance. The internal face is adorned with the names of one dozen First World War battles involving Australian units. The external face features carved rosettes. Troops who returned to Australia on leave in 1918 wore rosettes to indicate they were not dodging their duty, however the architects may not have intended this association.

The 18 sandstone columns are a reference to 1918—the year the Armistice was signed, heralding the end of the First World War. This motif is also found in the granite stairs leading up to the shrine; there are 19 steps in the lower flight and 18 in each of the upper flights.

The Square

The shallow pools adjacent to each staircase feature reflective tiles that are intended to symbolise tranquillity and renewed life. These pools were once stocked with small fish that delighted visiting children.

Three commemorative benches were once positioned near these reflection pools. They paid tribute to the



Australian Army Nursing Services, Commando Squadron and Special Forces, and Major D.J.F. Skov—veteran and founder of the Ex-Service Women's Association of Queensland. The plaques from these benches are now on display in the undercroft galleries.

The three walking paths through the square represent the three branches of the Australian Imperial Force—Navy, Army and Air Force.

The stately bottle trees that line these paths were donated by Brisbane-born Lieutenant Colonel Donald Cameron. These native Queensland trees preserve the memory of the Light Horse Regiments he served in during the Boer and First World Wars.

The sculptor

Renowned sculptor Daphne Mayo carved the sandstone relief panel in the Queensland Women's Memorial, which was erected by Queensland women and dedicated to the 57,705 Queensland men who enlisted during the First World War. The soldier depicted at the lead of the military procession bears a striking

resemblance to the sculptor's brother, Captain Richard Mayo, who served with the First Australian Imperial Force.

Ms Mayo also carved the stone drinking fountain as part of the Queensland Women's Memorial. The fountain is mounted on bronze dolphins, symbols of renewed life.

Thanks to the painstaking restorations conducted during the Anzac Centenary—work that involved extensive historical research in the planning phases—many of these symbolic elements have been faithfully preserved.

They provide another opportunity for future generations to remember the service and sacrifice of our defence force personnel. As the poignant inscription on the Queensland Cameron Highlanders' tribute says: *When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.*

Archives illustrate women's duty and care

In 2017, women accounted for approximately 16 per cent of the Australian Defence Force, including 82 senior officer positions. They also represented more than 14 per cent of troops on operations overseas. Throughout 2017, the State Library of Queensland (SLQ) was involved in a number of projects that illustrated how women made similarly important contributions 100 years ago.

Duty and Care

Whilst willing and able, women had limited opportunity for active service during the First World War.

SLQ's *Duty and Care* exhibition, displayed in the Talbot Family Treasures Wall, highlighted the many ways in which women overcame these limitations to make a powerful, lasting impact on Australia's war effort.

State Librarian Vicki McDonald said the exhibition provided personal insight into the often untold contributions and sacrifices made by women.

"Women found creative and resourceful ways to participate and contribute to the war efforts," Ms McDonald said.

"Some enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service and saw active service overseas. Others threw themselves into fundraising activities,

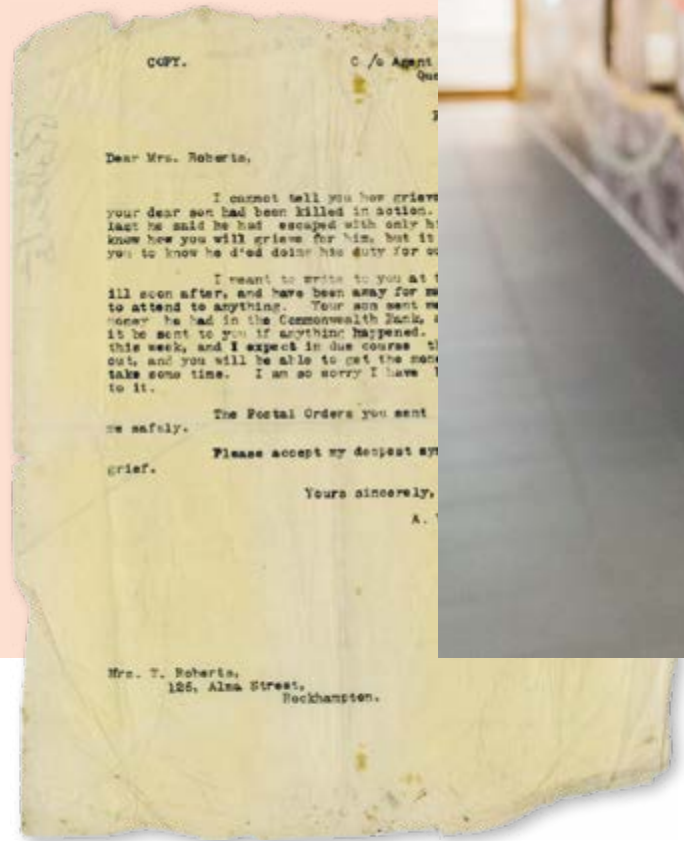
volunteered to care for wounded soldiers, or protested for peace."

Powerful stories emerge when browsing the photographs, letters, scrapbooks, postcard albums and more—all drawn from SLQ's First World War collections.

"They reveal private experiences and, as a collection, these personal mementos and accounts can provide a greater understanding of how women in Queensland experienced the First World War, both at home and overseas," Ms McDonald said.

Top left: Annie Wheeler wrote countless letters, providing a point of contact between Australian troops and their families in Queensland.

Top right: Robyn Hamilton, the library's Coordinator of Q ANZAC 100 Content, reviews the *Duty and Care* collection.





Mother of Queenslanders

The story of Annie Wheeler is perhaps one of the most striking examples of unique, proactive contributions to the war effort.

Mrs Wheeler, a Rockhampton local, was living in England when the war broke out. According to writer, researcher and Q ANZAC 100 Fellow, Ursula Cleary, Mrs Wheeler immediately knew she had to play a part and initially volunteered as a nurse.

“In 1915, as the Australians are starting to come back to England from Gallipoli, Annie begins visiting Queenslanders



Annie Wheeler created and maintained personalised index cards for more than 2300 Queensland soldiers.

in hospital—particularly anyone who was from or near Rockhampton,” Ms Cleary said.

“She quickly realised she could be of more use looking after and administering to these boys—effectively being their mother—than she could as their nurse.”

Mrs Wheeler started by simply providing hospitalised soldiers with a postcard and her address, advising them to contact her if they ever needed anything. From there, she endeavoured to contact all soldiers from Central Queensland—whether wounded, imprisoned, or in the trenches—to provide for their immediate needs and help connect them with their families at home.

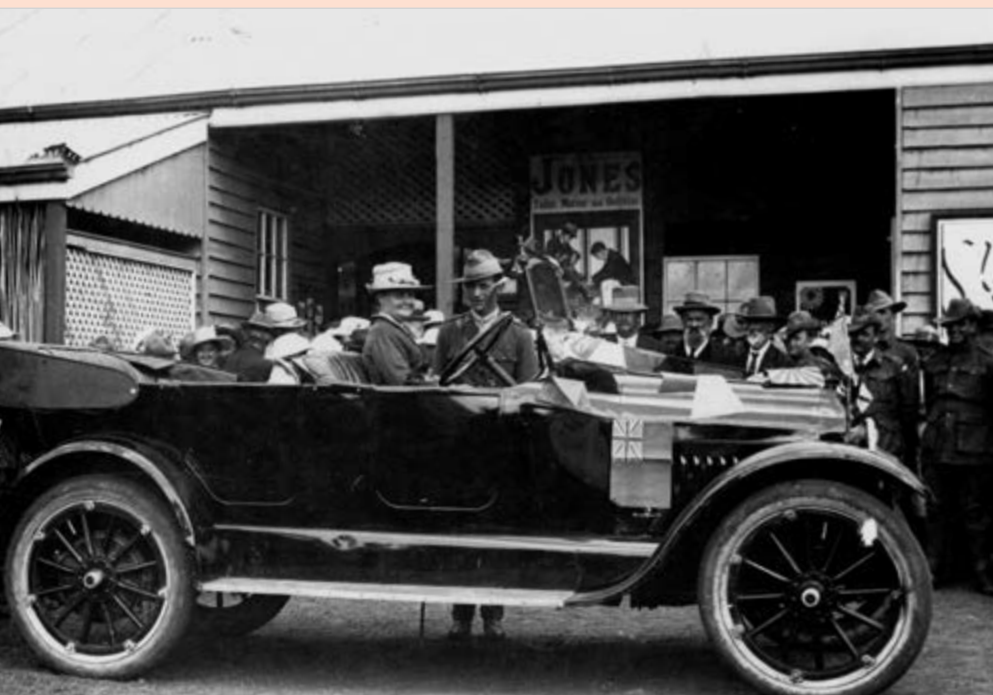
The evidence of her commitment is housed at SLQ’s archives—three red boxes containing personalised index cards for more than 2300 men. Each card tells a unique story and illustrates why Mrs Wheeler quickly became known as the ‘Mother of Queenslanders’.

“On the front of each card she had information about each soldier, and on the back she had information about the soldier’s family,” Ms Cleary said.

“The cards recorded any time Annie or her team corresponded with a soldier, had any visits with the soldiers, or if they sent a parcel—all that information went on those cards.”

“The help Mrs Wheeler is rendering is above all praise. In her, Queensland soldiers, whether in the trenches or in the hospitals, have a friend that never fails them; and our wounded heroes especially have reason to be grateful for her unceasing care and devotion.”

T J Ryan, Premier of Queensland, 1916.



Not just concerned with the soldiers' welfare, Mrs Wheeler also worked to support the families in Queensland. She wrote detailed letters home each fortnight which were published in *The Capricornian* and *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* newspapers.

"Annie was also working with a number of people in Rockhampton and Central Queensland, trying to find men who had been reported missing," Ms Cleary said.

"They would work to try to find soldiers who had been with the missing soldier the day before or the hour before—to give a more full account to the family back home who had nothing to remember of their son or brother or husband who had been killed."

It's no surprise that Mrs Wheeler was regarded as a hero in her day. In fact, more than 5000 people gathered to meet her train on her return to Australia in 1919.

To help preserve her important legacy, in 2017 Ms Cleary worked with SLQ and historians from Capricorn

Coast Historical Society to produce a new digital story, *Discovering Annie Wheeler*. Available to download from the SLQ website, this fascinating short film celebrates the life and achievements of this remarkable woman.

An evolving commitment

From the work completed through the *Duty and Care* exhibition, SLQ was also able to contribute to Australia Post's *Australia: Women in War* stamp issue. The 2017 collection acknowledges the many ways in which women serve, and is the fourth in a series commemorating a century of service.

The First World War stamp and collection cover features Ella Clow McLean, one of more than 2000 Australian nurses who served abroad with the Australian Army Nursing Service. SLQ supplied the image of Roma-born Sister McLean in her tippet, as well as excerpts from a letter she wrote to Canon Garland during her service in India and Egypt.

The collection also features war correspondents, Red Cross workers,

members of The Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and the Women's Land Army, and a number of Australian Defence Force personnel engaged in recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Together, the *Duty and Care* exhibition, the *Discovering Annie Wheeler* digital story and the *Australia: Women in War* stamp issue demonstrate that, while the roles and opportunities may have changed, Australian women have always gone above and beyond during times of war.

Top left: Annie Wheeler arrives at Springsure to unveil the School War Memorial, 1920.

Top right: A 1918 portrait of Nurse Ella Clow McLean.



Anzac Centenary: supporting local commemorations

Throughout the Anzac Centenary, communities all around Queensland have taken an active role in raising awareness of local contributions to our country's unique military history.

As community groups, local councils, historical societies, school communities and many more increase their understanding of the service and sacrifice of our Anzacs, it is not surprising they also have an increased desire to create new or revitalise existing tributes to these incredible men and women. The Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program helps communities do just that.

Over the past three years, the program has provided more than \$5.6 million in funding to support over 270 projects that honour Queensland servicemen and women, past and present.

In 2017 alone, 87 communities across Queensland were awarded a total

of over \$1.5 million for a remarkable array of projects. While each was unique to the region and its history, in broad terms these included historical research, acquiring and preserving war memorabilia, restoring or enhancing memorials or honour boards, or hosting commemorative activities.

The following pages outline a small number of the many wonderful projects completed throughout Queensland in 2017. These projects raise awareness of important military engagements from the past 100 years and express our gratitude for the many Queensland defence personnel involved.



Troops, believed to be Cable Station Guards, having tea in Southport, Queensland, 1914.

A coastal commemoration

The tourist-lined sands of the Gold Coast may have been oceans away from the battleground beaches of the First World War, but an exhibition at the Southport Library offered locals a rare insight into the city's unique experience of the Great War.

Personal stories from families living through the First World War were interwoven with tales of the Coast's civic contribution in the *Cables to Commemoration: the Gold Coast home front 1914–1918* exhibition, which was made possible by a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant.

Launched in November 2016, more than 3200 people visited the library's exhibition during its three-month run.

The Gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum, Southport Military Museum and the Gold Coast and Hinterland Historical Museum partnered with the City of Gold Coast to produce the exhibition, which showcased rare photographs, postcards, medals, craft and other well-preserved items from the period.

During the First World War, the Gold Coast—then known as 'South Coast'—was primarily an agricultural region, rich with sugarcane, timber and small dairies.

Principle hinterland centres had been linked to coastal towns just a decade prior to the outbreak of war, with the South Coast Railway completed in 1903.

Though built primarily for rural production, the railway had a vital role during the First World War, transporting enlisted men to recruitment centres in Brisbane and carrying injured soldiers home to their families.

City of Gold Coast Senior Heritage Planner Jane Austen said the exhibition touched on the many



Top: Cheryl Aubrey and Kyla Stephan with the exhibition, which explores how the First World War affected communities on the Gold Coast.

Inset: Residents and soldiers in military uniform at Mudgeeraba Railway Station, 1917.

ways the war ultimately shaped the Gold Coast and its people.

“The legacy was similar to many towns and villages, with a community strengthened by mateship, generosity, pride and community suffering,” Ms Austen said.

“It was also an equaliser for the Gold Coast. Every town and village lost people, every community pulled together to support those overseas and every community commemorated their losses through war memorials or honour boards.

“For the first time, they were not just individual centres but a wider community with a shared experience.”

Ms Austen says visitors expressed surprise at the extent of the

Gold Coast’s involvement in the First World War, particularly around security through the Southport Drill Hall and the Pacific Cable Station at Southport.

Established in 1890, the Southport Drill Hall was used by the Commonwealth Defence Force for military training, including the training of the Volunteer Defence Corps.

A contingent of the Commonwealth Defence Force guarded the nearby Pacific Cable Station, which until 1912 was the receiving centre for all international messages into Australia and remained an important official communication hub throughout the war.

“People also commented on the generosity of the community during

the war, and likened it to the way the Gold Coast community will come together today to give generously to a worthy cause,” Ms Austen said.

An Australian History Curriculum education pack, tailored for students in Years 3 and 9, was also produced alongside the exhibition.

The packs were delivered to every school on the Gold Coast, ensuring a greater understanding of the local experience of the First World War for generations to come.

For more information and to download the exhibition booklet and education materials, visit www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au and search for *From Cables to Commemoration*.



Local blacksmith Brent Cook was proud to forge the new signposts, in a style reminiscent of the First World War era.

In the name of three soldiers

The Far North Queensland town of El Arish is proud of its First World War heritage and ‘The Three Soldiers’ project, which honoured two servicemen with biographical street signs and restored the memorabilia of another soldier.

El Arish is a small community approximately 100 kilometres south-east of Cairns. It is named after the watering hole in Palestine that benefitted the Desert Imperial Force on their push towards Damascus. Furthermore, the town’s eight streets are named after men who made significant contributions during and after the war, which further demonstrates the level of pride this Queensland community has in its First World War association.

Six streets are named after the Australian Army Generals Chauvel, Glasgow, Monash, Ryrie, Royston and Wilson, who have been represented by biographical street signs for years. Now, Lance Corporal Francis Martin and Private Tasman Millington also have ornate biographical street signs erected in their name.

Francis Martin Street honours the man who established the town and made it what it is today. Without his

energy and drive, El Arish may not have its name or even exist.

The town was established as Maria Creek Soldier Settlement, and it gave servicemen returning from the First World War an opportunity to start a new life with a parcel of land to farm sugar cane. The initial ballot of April 1921 led to 72 soldiers receiving approximately 50 acres each.

Francis ‘Frank’ Martin—of the 11/13th Battalion and 6th Australian Light Horse Regiment in Palestine and Egypt—was the supervisor of the settlement and, according to the El Arish Diggers Museum caretaker Marie Carman, was hugely influential in the development of the town.

“Mr Martin was instrumental in establishing the settlement,” Ms Carman said.

“The decision to name the streets after the Generals took place at a town meeting he called around 1921–1922.

“The museum has a copy of Mr Martin’s journal which lists in detail the allotments, the soldiers who were settled there and the jobs they did, giving us a wonderful insight into our early history.”

Tasman Millington was not a forefather of El Arish however was honoured by the local council for the significant

contribution he made to the war as Superintendent of the War Graves at Gallipoli. Ms Carman said Old Tully Road became Millington Road in tribute to this great Australian.

“He is an outstanding example of an Australian soldier who had a terrible job to do and just attended to business as expected of him,” Ms Carman said.

“He played a large role in comforting the families who lost loved ones, by taking them to the graves. Reading some of the letters that thank him is very touching. He remained in Turkey until his retirement, such was his dedication.”

The new street signs honouring Mr Martin and Mr Millington are handmade using gold aluminium with black printing. Poignantly, the wording for Frank Martin was written by his son David Martin OAM, a Vietnam veteran.

“I was proud to do it and I take my hat off to what those guys did all those years ago,” Mr Martin said.

“They achieved a lot, and it’s great the people in the town embrace their history and recognise what everyone did back then.”

The signposts were made by local blacksmith Brent Cook. Standing 3.5 metres tall, the signposts are

The El Arish Diggers Museum team with the First World War memorabilia of Private Herbert Jones, recently restored and preserved.



made from steel pipe, forged and stepped in sections with decorative ironwork and finial, then galvanised.

“I designed and made them to represent the period of that time,” Mr Cook said.

“This is to honour the servicemen and their families, and I’m very proud to have been part of this project.”

In addition to the street signs, the town of El Arish also received Queensland Anzac Centenary funding to restore and reframe the First World War memorabilia collection of Private Herbert Jones of the 1st Anzac Mounted Division and 9th Australian Light Horse Regiment.

He served at Gallipoli and the Middle East, and was one of the original settlers of El Arish. His collection—Australian Light Horse hat feather, medals, photograph and uniform

pins—was saturated by Cyclone Yasi in 2011 before making its way to Ms Carman and team.

“We had the good fortune to be given Herb’s fabulous memorabilia and it’s terrific to be able to fully restore it,” Ms Carman said.

“Herb was a very important part of the town committees, local council and the cane farming community. He was a true gentleman... generous of spirit and kind to the very end.

“He and Frank Martin lived here with the returned soldiers in all their myriad physical and mental states, and were integral in the making of this town, our home today.

“All three servicemen are held in high esteem in El Arish because they illustrate the determination and strength of character it took to get Australia through the war.”

Remembering the maids of all work

The badge from a Second World War uniform inspired a Red Cross volunteer to learn more about the largely-forgotten Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) of the First World War, and to establish a bank of their uniforms for commemorative events and an educational booklet.



Elizabeth-Rose Ahearn proudly wears a replica General Service Voluntary Aid Detachment uniform.



Members of the Australian Imperial VAD with Lady Robinson (Commandant), 1919.



Voluntary Aid Detachments would support troops travelling to and from the front, often supplying them with small indulgences like tea, chocolate and cigarettes.

The VADs were a group of women who contributed enormously to the war effort. They volunteered for what may be regarded as ‘ordinary’ work so that others could concentrate on more skilled tasks. However, their committed involvement has been forgotten and the VADs have slowly vanished into the mists of time.

Now, thanks to the determination of Louise Kear and her fellow volunteers at the Red Cross Milton office in Brisbane, the uniforms of the VADs will be seen again and worn with pride at commemorative events across Queensland. These esteemed women will be overlooked no more.

“A colleague showed me the shoulder badge of a uniform worn by her mother who was a VAD during the Second World War. I had never heard of these detachments so I started researching 100 years of Red Cross VAD history in Australia,” Ms Kear said.

“The more I learnt about them, the more I felt it was wrong that their significant contribution had

been forgotten. These women had ‘disappeared’ from people’s memories.

“I wanted to focus on the First World War VADs and their relationship with the Anzacs returning home, so a group of five volunteers in the ‘Red Records’ Archives team has been researching, creating displays, organising uniforms and liaising with Red Cross branches throughout Queensland to participate in our VAD commemorations in 2018.”

During the First World War, women wanted to support the war effort in any practical way. Many joined voluntary organisations such as the Australian Red Cross, Country Women’s Association, Women’s Christian Temperance Union, Australian Women’s National League, Australian Comforts Fund and the Cheer-Up Society.

Through these groups, women enlisted as VADs to perform many menial tasks in auxiliary hospitals across Queensland such as cleaning, setting trays, cooking meals, lighting



fires and boiling water for washing clothes, dressing and undressing injured servicemen, entertaining patients, serving refreshments and fundraising.

Professor Melanie Oppenheimer described these duties as ‘housework on a large scale’ in her official centenary history of Australian Red Cross, *The Power of Humanity*.

While most women were General Service VADs, some Special Service VADs also provided auxiliary nurses to hospitals and convalescent homes.

They received training and performed drills, sat exams and worked under a burden of expectation. They were required to wear a uniform which practically disappeared from view in the decades since, but this has been rectified by Ms Kear and her colleagues.

“We had a range of other VAD uniforms but none from the First World War era. They are quite striking in appearance so we hope people will see it at commemoration events and start a conversation about who

the VADs were and their work in supporting Anzacs to recover from their wounds,” Ms Kear said.

“The General Service VAD uniform was largely fashioned on that of the British Red Cross. It consisted of a mid-blue loose cotton overdress with stiff white collar, and a distinctive white apron with a large red cross on the bib which covered the dress. Both were ankle length.

“White veils were worn and these changed in design over the course of the war but were typically pulled together at the back to distinguish them from nurses. Over-sleeves were worn for dirty work and women had to provide their own footwear, usually practical black shoes or boots.”

Australian Red Cross in Queensland ordered 60 replica uniform sets comprising the dress, apron, veil and over-sleeves. These will be distributed, as required, to be worn with pride at commemorative events.

“The uniform is a visually effective and practical way to engage the public in commemorating VADs with

us, and we will be sharing them with many of our 70 branches throughout Queensland as they participate in community events and fundraising activities in 2018 and beyond,” Ms Kear said.

“We have also produced a 28-page educational booklet about Red Cross VADs in the First World War called *Maids of All Work*, a title inspired by a phrase used by Professor Oppenheimer in our official history—I felt it summed up the type of work and lack of recognition of the VADs.

“Our PowerPoint presentation is for branches to take to community groups and schools, and bookmarks and buttons summarising the key points about VADS will also be distributed.

“We want people to be able to answer the question ‘what is a VAD?’ and hopefully reconnect to their own family history.”

Top: Ann Power and Elizabeth-Rose Ahearn demonstrate some of the duties performed by the Voluntary Aid Detachments, which were affectionately described as ‘housework on a large scale’.



William Snowden Acworth with other junior officers of 26th Battalion.

Playwright pays tribute to her father's story

Researching family history is a journey of discovery that often leads to very unexpected places.

The research that laid the foundation for award-winning playwright Elaine Acworth's audio work *My Father's Wars* was inspired by a very personal quest to better know her father William (Bill) Acworth, a veteran of both world wars, who died when she was only 14.

Speaking at the launch held at the State Library of Queensland Ms Acworth said, "Dad was a mystery to me when he was alive, and he died well over 40 years ago now."

She knew some of the facts, for example, that her father had fought in the First World War in 1917 and 1918.

"He was a young lieutenant on the Western Front serving in Belgium and France in the 26th Battalion, 7th Brigade, Australian Imperial Forces," Ms Acworth said.

"Four years ago, I had known a little bit of that, but not all of it.

"On his enlistment papers his occupation was given as commercial traveller of Ganges Street, West End.

"A West End boy who sold typewriter ribbons all up and down the coast—I hadn't known that."

Bill Acworth left no diaries and none of his letters home survived. And like many of his generation, he never spoke about what happened 'over there'—the events that were so formative in his young life.

"I could never get him to say anything, except that war was terrible and good men died, and there were a lot of poor buggers who didn't deserve what they got," Ms Acworth said.



Gavin Bannerman, Elaine Acworth and State Librarian Vicki McDonald at the *My Father's Wars* launch.

But thanks to a Q ANZAC 100 Fellowship, Ms Acworth was able to draw on the rich resources of John Oxley Library and has finally been able to shine a light on the darker corners of her father's story.

Ms Acworth said, as a child she of course loved her father, but didn't really understand why he was the way he was, "very tough, observant, always a very direct speaker."

"He didn't suffer fools at all. Fools, whingers, anyone who was sorry for themselves, he had no time for them whatsoever.

"I've subsequently learned that this all came from his time in the war, the war that fundamentally shaped the man he was."

Insights came from reading the letters home and diaries of other young men who served in her father's brigade or who fought in the same battles he had fought in, all around the Ypres sector in France.

That research was initially intended to be developed into a theatre piece examining the Western Front's impact on Ms Acworth's father and on his children.

But when she started thinking about the prospective audience, the project began to take on a whole new shape and direction.

"The more I thought about it, the more I thought there were a number of conversations that I really wanted to participate in or encourage," Ms Acworth said.

"Conversations such as those between children, like my sister and I—children of a veteran—and their families, the mothers, fathers, brothers or sisters who served.

"Conversations between young people about World War One, but also about war in general.

"Surely these young people must be thinking, why would someone choose to go and fight on the other side of the world in a country that they've never seen? And what would I do, if I were in those circumstances?

"Grades 9 or 10 study World War One so these are important questions for them."



William Acworth with baby Elaine.



State Librarian Vicki McDonald introduces Elaine Acworth at the *My Father's Wars* launch.

The material Ms Acworth read came from all around the state. It included diaries of jackaroos from stations outside of Charters Towers, letters home written by young men from Yelarbon—near the Queensland-New South Wales border, from Gympie, Rockhampton and Mackay.

“So a live performance in Brisbane just didn’t seem to cut it really—I needed another medium,” she said.

“I needed something that was free, something that people around the whole state could easily access. And something that they could play at a time of their choosing. In short, I needed to write the story as podcasts, so I did. Then of course, the podcasts needed to be produced.”

To enable that to happen, Ms Acworth applied for a Spirit of Service grant with the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program and feels very grateful to have been selected.

Part drama, part documentary, the finished product *My Father's Wars* speaks to anyone who also seeks to understand the impact of war not only on those who fought but on those closest to them.

Auspiced by Playlab, Ms Acworth said the audio production was “gifted with wonderful actors and a terrific sound design and original composition.”

The *My Father's Wars* podcasts are available for download at www.qanzac100.slq.qld.gov.au/showcase/my-fathers-wars-podcasts



The museum's interactive table was designed to look like a study desk and each digital profile feature is depicted as a notebook or pile of papers. The medals, tins, marbles and other ornaments depicted on the table are also interactive.

Interactive portal to Qantas past honours servicemen

Qantas is an Australian icon and the world's second oldest airline. Its formation and endurance were established through the Anzac spirit of the First World War, as revealed by a new interactive exhibit at the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach.

Many people already know Qantas was launched and based in Winton on 16 November 1920, before moving to Longreach. They may also know its name is an acronym for Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services. Some may know the founding fathers were Hudson Fysh, Paul McGinness, Fergus McMaster and Arthur Baird. However, not many people will know that 10 of the early Qantas employees, including the founders, served during the First World War.

The lives of those 10 men, and two more servicemen who also worked briefly for Qantas, are the subject of the new exhibit at the Qantas Founders Museum—a community-owned not-for-profit organisation founded in Longreach in 1988.

The interactive touch table chronicles the stories of pilots Hudson Fysh, Paul McGinness, Fred Huxley, Fred Haig, George Matthews and Tom Back, grazier Fergus McMaster, engineers Arthur Baird and George Boehm, and manager Marcus Griffin.



Lieutenant Fysh at his guns, with pilot Major Addison in a Bristol Fighter during the Palestine campaign, 1917.

They enlisted for service in the First World War and saw action overseas, before returning to Australia to become part of the Qantas story during its formative years of 1920–1924. Two other servicemen who played their part for a short time before moving on from Qantas were engineer Jack Hazlitt and pilot Arthur Vigers.

The Museum curator Tom Harwood spent several years researching the profiles of the Qantas pioneers. He discovered many of the men are little more than footnotes in history, but each had a First World War story that deserves recognition.

“The focus for the historians is usually on those considered the founders, but what struck me repeatedly as I learned more about all these men is that Qantas was created and

survived because of what we call the Anzac spirit,” Mr Harwood said.

“They were a group of people who relied on mateship, determination, a desire to make the world a better place, comradeship and a willingness to work towards a common goal, which were values nurtured during their service in the First World War.

“For the most part, there seems to have been uncertainty about what the peacetime future might hold but most had the desire to use the skills they’d developed during the war to make Australia more liveable, and to improve connections across the Empire for which they’d fought,” Mr Harwood said.

Such aspirations led to thoughts of developing a civil aviation industry that would connect huge remote expanses of Queensland and beyond.

Mr Fysh wrote in his autobiography: “We were convinced of the important part aircraft would eventually play in transporting mail, passengers and freight over the sparsely populated and practically roadless areas of western and northern Queensland and North Australia.”

Mr Harwood says the ex-servicemen devoted their time to evolving an air industry in various parts of the country.

“There was a camaraderie, with wartime connections and friendships playing a part in where people went and their willingness to maintain contact and continue working together.

“Many of those who served with Qantas were former members of No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. For many, finding the right job and place took some time to realise,



Sir Hudson Fysh joined the Australian Imperial Force as an Australian Light Horseman, but later transferred to the Australian Flying Corps. The skills and experience gained in the Corps were vital to his post-war role as the Managing Director of Qantas.

and their existence was often nomadic as they tried different things.

“In our discussions we agreed their stories needed to be told, and decided an interactive table was the ideal way to present them—alongside images and documents—to attract visitors of all ages.

“We wanted an engaging, compact and informative device, so sought advice from various museum staff members about the proposed layout and design, then worked with the Sydney-based company Lightwell to produce the best possible results.

“The table was officially launched on 16 November 2017 by Major Ross Eastgate OAM of the Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary and we are delighted

by the response from visitors,” Mr Harwood said.

Mr Harwood also emphasised that, most importantly, the new exhibit reminds us of what we can learn from those who served in the First World War.

“They taught us about willingness to sacrifice short-term comfort for a greater good, to show determination in the face of great odds, of a desire to leave the world a better place than it was when we entered, the importance of a work ethic, and having and following dreams,” Mr Harwood said.

For more information about the Qantas Founders Museum, visit www.qfom.com.au



Joe Hextall and Jane Harding developed *Noosa Remembers* to share the history of the region's war memorials, such as the Tewantin War Memorial seen in the background.

In remembrance of a Noosa past

Renowned for its beaches and stunning coastline, Noosa Shire can also take pride in its past—particularly the community's dedication to memorialising all those who served. Thanks to a new publication *Noosa Remembers: A History of the World War 1 Memorials of Noosa Shire*, the community spirit rallied all those years ago lives on.

The Shire of Noosa was established just a few years before the First World War. Even though the population was approximately 2000 when war was declared, 200 men from the fledgling region enlisted.

Those who stayed behind also played a vital part. This small community not only tirelessly fundraised to support the war effort—with donations ranging from honey to horses—they were also determined those who served should be remembered. Through their efforts, enough money was raised to fund no less than 15 major memorials as well as a number of honour boards.

The first of these was the planting of memorial trees in Pomona on Anzac Day 1917. The last was the official opening of the Pomona Memorial Rotunda on 24 June 1939, just 10 weeks before the start of the Second World War. Other memorials include halls, parks, cenotaphs and swimming baths.

The commitment and efforts of such a small and young community to support and honour their servicemen is the inspiration behind *Noosa Remembers: A History of the World War 1 Memorials of Noosa Shire*.



Top left: The Ladies' Patriotic Committee planted memorial trees at Pomona on Anzac Day 1917—the first of many community-funded memorials in the region.

Top right: Volunteers helped with research, searching archives and databases for material related to each memorial.

As highlighted in the book's introduction, "it was the people who wanted to commemorate the efforts of their local boys. Australia's memorials were not rolled out by governments to drum up national pride. It was already there, shining."

During the First World War, the community of Noosa Shire helped raise more than £27,000 to support the war effort and memorialise their local soldiers' sacrifices.

The book was launched at a community event on 8 September 2017, at the Pomona Rotunda. The launch day marked the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the Shire of Noosa Honor Board, which took place at the former Noosa Shire Chambers, just down the road from the rotunda.

Co-author, Noosa Shire Council's Heritage Librarian Jane Harding, said the event was well attended by an enthusiastic audience.

"There was strong community demand for copies of the book with stocks being depleted within a few weeks," Ms Harding said.

"Joe Hextall was the heritage consultant on this project and had a pivotal role in reviewing the amassed research and weaving the facts and information into an engaging narrative.

"Joe also worked on our prior project *Noosa's War Front* and has passion for this topic.

"Our volunteer researchers were also invaluable in methodically searching through old newspapers on Trove* and collating material related to each memorial."

Ms Harding said the book was made possible by the National Library of Australia's digitisation of newspapers—a critical resource for any researcher of local or regional history.

This was supplemented by images and information from a range of sources including: Council minute books and archives, historic photos from Noosa Library Service's Picture Noosa, the Noosa Shire Museum, State Library of Queensland, private collections and Returned and Services League archives. The team also interviewed Council staff, Returned and Services League members and the Tewantin Historical Society.

Supported by a Queensland Anzac Centenary Spirit of Service grant, *Noosa Remembers* is available as an e-book via the Noosa Library Service website: www.libraries.noosa.qld.gov.au/world-war-i-centenary

*Trove is the National Library of Australia website where users can search books, photos, pictures, journal articles, archived newspapers, people, organisations, maps, music and more. Visit www.trove.nla.gov.au



Illustrations by Eloise Tuppurainen-Mason
from *Voices from the Trenches*.



Artful telling of the Anzac story

An ambitious three-part project harnesses the evocative power of the arts to engage and educate a younger generation and give voice to Australia's Anzac history.

What do a picture book, animation and musical performance have in common? All are great ways to tell a story, and to make our nation's rich history more accessible for young people.

Titled *Voices from the Trenches*, the picture book is a joint effort by a project team from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) led by Dr Martin Kerby and Associate Professor Margaret Baguley.

To strengthen the appeal to children and young adult audiences, an animated DVD version was produced to sit alongside the book.

Written by Dr Kerby, the book uses historical quotes and extracts from the diaries and letters of Australian soldiers, civilians and politicians to complement illustrations depicting First World War events significant to Australia.

An educator, academic and keen military historian, Dr Kerby said the book would help strengthen children's connection with Australia's Anzac heritage.

"While it's not a traditional picture book, our aim was to also make it accessible to children and young adults through the quality of the artwork," Dr Kerby said.

"War can be a difficult subject to navigate with young people, but that does not mean they should be prevented from engaging with this topic.

"I believe children today are very sophisticated consumers of visual imagery particularly, more so than we often give them credit for.

"I would like to think they will read it and find something of interest that encourages them to read more widely," he said.

Incorporated in the book are quotes from the likes of Harry Gullett—official historian of the Australian Light Horse, and Charles Bean—one of the most influential writers of Australian military history and a founder of the Australian War Memorial.

Associate Professor Margaret Baguley
and Dr Martin Kerby.



Supported by the Queensland Government through a Queensland Anzac Centenary Spirit of Service grant, the book also includes historical background notes for teachers to use as reference material.

The grant also helped fund a third component—an original score *Anzac Rocks: World War 1 in 9 Rock Songs*, composed by Dr Robert Keane for the St Joseph's Nudgee College rock ensemble.

The ensemble recently toured regional Queensland with Brett Foster at the helm as conductor. The performance was interspersed with narrated extracts from letters and diaries of servicemen and women. One of the tour highlights was a special performance at the State Library of Queensland (SLQ) with images from

the children's book projected behind the band.

This is the third successful Anzac project collaboration between USQ and St Joseph's Nudgee College in the past four years. Associate Professor Baguley said both organisations were deeply committed to ensuring the Anzac legacy and traditions were commemorated respectfully and believe the project will resonate with schools and the wider community.

"By enabling them to hear directly the voices of men and women from their region, the performance powerfully connects people throughout the various communities," Associate Professor Baguley said.

The feedback from the public on the performance and book certainly

attests to the enduring power of the arts to reach hearts and minds. Many have commented on the potential educative benefits of the project, with the focus on a pivotal part of our national narrative.

Copies of *Voices from the Trenches* have been distributed to schools across Queensland and a special presentation of the book was also made to State Librarian Vicki McDonald. USQ Visual Arts graduate Eloise Tuppurainen-Mason and Associate Professor Baguley collaborated on the illustrations, while Zoe Lynch created the animations for the DVD.

Voices from the Trenches is available from the State Library of Queensland at www.slq.qld.gov.au



An allied soldier and his mare, each wearing a gas mask.

Did you know?

Few people have a history buff's fascination with dates and data, but look closer and you will discover many more surprising aspects of the First World War and our military history that will capture your imagination.

Helmet head

The first Australian troops to enlist in the First World War weren't issued with helmets. The most head protection they were offered was a sun helmet made of cork. After the Gallipoli campaign, Australian troops were provided with steel British Brodie helmets for better protection in the Western Front trenches.

Risky flight conditions

Around 70 different types of aeroplane took to the skies during the First World War. Many were simply made of wood, cloth and wire, leaving the brave pilots vulnerable to attack.

A cross with tradition

First instituted in 1856, the Victoria Cross has been awarded 1355 times, including 100 Australian recipients. Each of these prestigious medals has been crafted by the jewellers at Hancocks of London using metal from two cannons reportedly used during the Crimean War. When measured in 2015, only enough metal for approximately 80 more medals remained.

Awarded animals

Since 1943, animals who have displayed conspicuous gallantry or devotion to duty in the field of military conflict could be awarded the Dickin Medal. Sometimes referred to as the "animals' Victoria Cross", this prestigious medal has been awarded to 32 pigeons, 31 dogs, four horses and a cat called Simon.

In 2017, the Australian War Animals Memorial was unveiled in Pozieres, France, to further recognise the faithful service many animals provide during war.

A lotto good

The Queensland Government established the Golden Casket lottery during the First World War to raise much-needed funds for welfare and hospital projects. Profits from the lottery also helped build around 50 cottages in Queensland for returned servicemen who were badly injured or for families of soldiers who never returned.



Top: Workers building an Anzac cottage at Enoggera, financed by the sale of Golden Casket lottery tickets.

Middle: A twin motor French Caudron war plane, used during the First World War.

Bottom: This Dickin Medal was awarded to Australian Army Blue Bar cock pigeon DD43 T139 in 1945, for gallantry carrying a message through a severe tropical storm thereby bringing help to an army boat with a vital cargo.



Fooled into firing

First World War troops used papier-mâché dummy heads in the trenches to draw out enemy snipers. They would mount the decoy heads on sticks and poke them above the trench line, tempting the enemy to fire and reveal their position.

Choking up

The use of poisonous gases caught the allied forces off guard in the First World War. Before gas masks were developed in 1917, soldiers were instructed to use a urine-soaked cloth over their face as protection against the deadly vapours.

Competitive conscripts

Of the 40 Australian Olympians who enlisted in the First World War, only one was from Queensland. Ernest Hutcheon competed in the standing high jump at the London Games of 1908 and, after serving with the Australian Imperial Force, went on to play first class cricket for Queensland.

Learn more about the First World War and other major military engagements at www.qld.gov.au/anzac100

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Soldiers march through the Brisbane streets to celebrate the First World War victory, 1918.

Discover more about our Anzac history through the Anzac Centenary Queensland Facebook page. It features interesting facts, profiles and details of upcoming anniversaries and events.

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/anzaccentenaryqld and click on 'like'.

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 2017 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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