



# ANZAC DAY



## *Lest We Forget*

### CHURCHILL SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015

Churchill's inaugural Anzac Day ceremony was a wonderful success. Approximately 300 people attended the service held under cloudy but fine skies in the Town Hall Plaza.

Bruce Jeffrey President of Morwell RSL conducted the service. He began by explaining about ANZAC Day and its meaning for Australians and New Zealanders.

One of the most special observations was the reverent, respectful silent atmosphere among those gathered; with an air of expectancy.

Wreaths were laid for the RSL by Danny Gallagher, the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli by Don George, CDCA by Ian Place and Leo Priems, local Indigenous families by Christine Johnson and Doris Paton, State Government,

Honourable Melina Bath MLC, Latrobe City Council Darrell White, Churchill Police by Sergeant Phil den Houting, Churchill Fire brigade by Allan Larkin, Darren Devlin and Ashleigh Caldwell, Combined

Churches by Margaret McQuillen and Peter Townsend, Rotary Club of Hazelwood and District by Reg Kemp, Churchill and District Lions Club by Reg Grissotto, The 1st Churchill Scouts, Churchill P.S. by student leaders and Principal Susan Gilmore, staff and other students. Kurnai College Junior School by Hayden Kimpton and Justyce Rota, Federation University by Alan Scarlett, the Cadets, and Churchill & District News by Ruth Place.

Christine Johnson and Doris Paton represented the Koori community.

Doris spoke saying

"Today we remember and honour too the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have fought for Australia, from the Boer War onwards. Over 12,000 men fought in WW1, and hundreds served in the 2nd AIF and the militia. Many were killed fighting and some died as prisoners of war.

In their wartime service they received equal treatment and pay. Indigenous Australians have served in all conflicts in which Australia has participated.

They enlisted at a time in Australia's history when they could not vote, when they were not counted in the census; and when they returned to civilian life, many found they were treated with the same prejudice and discrimination as before. Though, like many young men at the time they enlisted out of loyalty, patriotism with a chance to prove themselves equal to Europeans.

War time service gave many Indigenous Australians pride and confidence in demanding their right upon return.

There are many stories about



helping our country be this way.

We remember how courageous the soldiers would have been during the war. How brave they were when times were tough, when it was freezing cold in the mud and rain, living day after day in the trenches. Feeling like giving up and wanting to go home to their loved ones.

We

will honour and remember them, each and every one of them.

Lest we forget."

Churchill P.S. words were delivered by Jeremy Curtis and Rhys Luxford, supported by other school leaders Breanna Ameerbeg and Caitlyn Sorby.

"Thank you for asking me to come and talk to you this morning to commemorate ANZAC Day, which most Australians, recognise as one of the most important days of the year.

ANZAC Day is not only a time to remember those who landed on the beaches of Gallipoli at dawn on April 25, 1915, but it is a time to reflect on all those affected by war and conflict over the years.

The initials stood for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and in 1915, those men, together with British, Indian and French soldiers were sent to fight in the part of Turkey known as Gallipoli. The initials became a word - ANZAC - which today is respected in both Australia and New Zealand.

The sacrifice our soldiers made is even more special today as we mark the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. It is important to understand the amazing courage our Australian soldiers showed.

They helped their allies and sacrificed their safe life in Australia for all of us.

ANZAC Day is a day to remember all men and women of the Australian Defense Force, regardless of the time they served.

ANZAC day is a day to stop and reflect on why we continue to have freedom, which no one should be able to take away from us. Without the support of every single Australian soldier, this great freedom would not be ours.

It is important that my generation and many to follow realise the impact of ANZAC day and see that the ANZAC spirit lives on.

We are responsible for carrying on this tradition.

We owe it to the

ANZACs

We will remember them."

Lumen Christi P.S. thoughts were delivered by Bethany Blakeley, supported by Alana Shankland. Bethany wrote her speech unassisted.

"When I think of ANZAC, I think that it's a time when we commemorate those who have fought and died in the war, defending our country and way of life. It's a time when we celebrate and remember  
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their contributions. During WW2 the army and RAAF depended heavily on the labour of Aboriginal and Islander forces in Northern Australia.

Many men enlisted from Lake Tyers in Gippsland.

On a personal level, Great Grandfather Private David Mullett 500 served in the Lighthouse in WW1, and in the 2nd Remount Unit under Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson in Beersheeba Egypt.

When he returned his life returned to the same discrimination as before. His medals went missing when they were sent to family at Coranderrk Mission at Healesville. In his letters too he longed for a uniform to march with his mates.

Lest We Forget."

Darrell White then introduced the children from each primary school who would say what Anzac Day meant to them.

Churchill North P.S. message was delivered by Riley Stevens supported by the other school leaders Zac Carlson, Hayley Donnelly and Madeline Slater. The four children brainstormed ideas and then wrote these words.

"ANZAC means to us, a day where we can remember those who have fallen in the line of battle. We appreciate everything the ANZACs went through in the months of the war. Because of the ANZACs we have freedom, we have our families and we have a safe place to live.

We believe that our country is a happy and special place. This is because we are not at war with anyone, or fighting with other countries. We thank our ANZACS for

thank them for sticking it out for us, that many others wouldn't have done.

We can only imagine how scary it must have been when the ANZACs would have heard bomb blasts overhead, machine guns firing all the time and yelling and screaming voices crying out for help. The feelings they must have experienced, of shrapnel hitting their bodies, the coldness biting them and the worry of losing their mates and loved ones. We think of the smells that the ANZACs would have had to put up with: the smoke, the gun powder and the dirt; but the wonderful taste of success to keep them motivated and their spirit alive, in order to keep going.

But it is not just the ANZACs that we remember on ANZAC Day, it's also the people who sacrificed something else. Something that never leaves us or that can ever be replaced. People have sacrificed the love of a family member, the bond of a special friendship or the contentment of a soul mate.

To the four of us standing here, these people are all very important too. So we





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people's bravery, sacrifice and courage. But we are sad and mourn at our losses. Some people say that Gallipoli is where the ANZAC legend started, and was the birth of our nation; for it was the first time we had united as a buying nation to go to war.

ANZAC Day is more than just remembering the price of war. It's remembering those who went to battle knowing they were going to die, but they did it anyway because they knew what they were fighting for.

They had to make a choice when there was no easy choice. I am proud to think that the ANZAC legend is still alive today and that we are still united in mateship to protect Australia's values after 100 years. I hope that all the sacrifices made in World War 1, and all the other wars will never be forgotten. Lest we forget."

These young people did a wonderful job of gathering and presenting their thoughts. They are to be commended.

Reverend Brenda Burney was then called upon to lead the people in saying the Lord's Prayer and a prayer for ANZAC Day.

The Ode to the Fallen was read by Lieutenant Commander Joseph Lindsay. This was followed by Jesse Richardson from Flinders Christian College playing a perfect rendition of the Last Post and Reveille interspersed with a minute's silence.

To complete the service the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems were played and sung.

The ladies from the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre then played host to those who wanted to join them in the Town Hall for a cuppa and ANZAC biscuits. They reported that about sixty people availed themselves of that offer.

Comments about the inaugural ANZAC Day service in Churchill were very positive.

Bruce Jeffrey said he was very pleased with the organisation, and very impressed with the crowd and the school students who made wonderful speeches. On behalf of the Morwell RSL and the committee, Bruce extended his thanks to the community for their wonderful, generous support in buying badges and other goods which helps the RSL to support its members. "It was an amazing effort," he said.

Don George, a Vietnam Veteran and an RSL member, from our local area said, "It was great. I was impressed with the turnout. I was selling badges in Churchill and know people have been very generous including the younger generation who would make donations of their small change.

I believe there are enough veterans and school children to have a march next year. People of Churchill are to be congratulated for turning out. It can only grow in the future.

Reverend Brenda Burney said it was a wonderful outcome for our inaugural ceremony. It was lovely to see how well and how many people supported the event. "Doris's words touched me, and the children's speeches show that they have a great understanding of the ANZAC tradition. It is lovely to see lots of wreaths."

Peter Townsend called it an auspicious occasion, which went extremely well. "I can't believe how good it was. It ran like clockwork," he enthused. "There was a respectful, atmosphere. The ramp where many people stood gave a good view but also made it more inclusive. It couldn't have

gone better."

President of CDCA, Margaret Guthrie said:

"I was delighted to see such a crowd attend; Churchill embraced the concept and we are so pleased that so many local organisations participated, many of which brought wreaths to lay at our memorial. I believe that the diversity of speakers was a highlight that demonstrated the significance of ANZAC Day to all.

I wish to acknowledge the dream of Tom Lawless, a long-serving member of CDCA and the Churchill community (now deceased), who wished to see Churchill with a civic space that contained flagpoles and a memorial and conducting our own community-based ANZAC Day commemorative service. I hope that the Churchill community has commenced a new tradition of holding our own ANZAC Day service here."

Melina Bath MLA, Member for Eastern Region said it was a great honour to spend ANZAC Day at Churchill's first service.



*Lest We Forget*





# Yinnar

Approximately 200 people braved the cold to attend the Dawn service in Yinnar. The Yinnar & District Lions Club provided egg and bacon sandwiches and hot coffee to stave off the chill.

The main march took place at 9.15 and was well attended. Numbers were slightly down on last year but this was probably due to Churchill conducting their first Anzac service.

The Yinnar scout group placed the crosses depicting the various battles in which Australia has been involved around the cenotaph. Wreaths were then laid by individuals representing many groups from within the town and the wider district. CEO Gary van Driel laid a wreath on behalf of Latrobe City Council.

Yinnar's oldest veteran, Bill Welsh, then unveiled the new Centenary plaque on the cenotaph.

Following a short address, the march then moved into the Yinnar Memorial Hall. The service was once again led by Lyndon Giles, a Vietnam Vet, with music provided by the Salvation Army band.

Several of the Strzelecki Stringbusters, led by Rod Couling, performed the song "The Rocket" which tells the story of a World War 1 man who survived only to lose his son in another war.

The main address was given by Cameron Brinsmead, a student at Lavalla College. Cameron told us about his experiences travelling to the battle sites in France and Turkey. It was inspiring to see the passion of a young person describing his Anzac experience and hopefully Cameron and others like him, will keep the Anzac tradition alive for many years to come.



**CHURCHILL SERVICE MEMORIAL**  
 15 March 2015

This service memorial is dedicated to the people of Churchill who have served their country and community in times of war, natural disaster and crisis.

The sculptor, Paul Jesse, has included a colourful and optimistic side to the sculpture, representing home, family, community and the future. The dark side represents the calamities that have challenged our nation or locality.

The spirals of mosaics represent our service people, moving between community and calamity, representing a flow of thoughts, love, fear, concern and dreams.



# Boolarra

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings and to remember all those who made the supreme sacrifice in all arenas of war, an ANZAC Service was held at Boolarra on Friday April 24. This year the Boolarra Primary School participated in the service. Each child made a poppy which was placed in the garden at the RSL Memorial, while the names of the

fallen were read out. The children also came dressed for the era. There were soldiers, nurses and civilians amongst the crowd gathered for the service. The guest speaker was local Boolarra resident and Vietnam Veteran, Geoff Dunkley. Caterina and Eve both read their poems they had written about war and remembrance. Hollie and Darcy ably raised the flags, Australian and

New Zealand, while Reveille was sounded. Many wreaths were laid in remembrance of the fallen. Mirabel and Emre, school captains, laid a wreath from the primary school. A superb wreath made up of entwined branches and crocheted/knitted poppies was crafted by a local group and will eventually be on display at the Hall. Morwell RSL, Boolarra Cemetery Trust,

Boolarra Friends of the Red Cross, Boolarra Fire Brigade, Morwell RSL Women's Auxiliary, Russell Northe M.L.A, and Department of Veterans Affairs also laid a wreath or flowers. A special Centenary of Gallipoli and Anzac Day wreath was also placed at the memorial.

Roz Carstairs Convenor



# Lest We Forget





# Morwell



The March and Service at Morwell was extremely well attended. Many Churchill and district veterans were among the marchers.

Three riders dressed in Lighthorse uniforms led the parade. One was Jason Hunter who is keen to see the re-development of the Waler horses.

From the many breeds which were imported into Australia in the early days of white settlement, a special breed of horse adapted to Australian conditions was developed, known as the Waler as most were found in New South Wales. They played an important role in the development of the early colonies.

Jason's family, going back several generations, has all been passionate about and owned horses. Jason's Great Grandfather was in the mounted cavalry in England. His Grandfather loved horses and used them to draw his milk cart. Jason's Dad always had horses so Jason has had a horse since the age of four.

During World War 1 approximately 487,000 horses were sent overseas, mostly for military reasons, from Australia. They were a hardy breed and well suited to the war conditions. Jason is passionate about keeping some Australian history alive and making people more aware of the sacrifice made by these horses. Many were killed in action. Those which survived were shot by their masters to keep them from being mistreated by the Arabs, Egyptians and Indians.

After the need for supply waned, the horses were let loose. They bred in large numbers and were culled to near extinction.

In 1986 the Waler Horse Society of Australia was formed and now the horse is slowly making its way back into recognition and increasing in numbers.

Although dressed in the Lighthorse uniform, Jason is not a member of the forces, but uses it as a tool to promote the horses.

The march was from the Commonwealth Bank corner down Tarwin Street to the cenotaph. Les Maher was Master of Ceremonies. He was very impressed with the number of people who had come to honour the ANZACs and to remember the sacrifice they made to keep our country free.

During the service a new plaque was unveiled which honours all World War 1 service people. The unveiling was by Vicki Burgess a descendant of Robert and Anne Whitelaw. A prayer of dedication was said by Ashley Proctor of the Salvation Army. Their story follows:

Vicki Burgess's Great Grand Parents, Robert and Annie Whitelaw had eight sons and one daughter. They were all born at Briagolong. Six of their sons enlisted for service in the Australian Imperial Forces during the First World War. Their details are:-

Ken, the eldest son enlisted at the age of 32 in November, 1916. A private, his Service Number was 3446. He served with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion and was badly wounded at Montbrehain, France in 1918. He was returned to Australia and discharged medically unfit in 1919. Ken died of his wounds in 1922.

Bob, the second son enlisted at the age

of 29 in January, 1915. A sergeant, his Service Number was 1003. He served at Gallipoli and was evacuated in November 1915 to rejoin his unit in France. Whilst serving with the 21st Battalion, Bob was killed at Bullecourt, France on May 3, 1917. Bob's body was never recovered.

Donald, the third son enlisted at the age of 28 in January, 1916. A sergeant, his Service Number was 1308. He served with the 37th Battalion and was wounded in France. Donald was invalided back to Australia and received a commendation for gallantry.

Lionel was the fourth son and Vicki's Grandfather. He enlisted at the age of 24 in November, 1914. A private, his Service Number was 2324. Lionel served at Gallipoli and Vicki understands he was at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915 with the 6th Battalion in the second wave onto the beach, where he was wounded. Lionel was returned to Australia with an illness and discharged medically unfit in 1916. He died in 1933.

Ivan, the fifth son enlisted at the age of 21 in July, 1915. A corporal, his Service Number was 2910. Ivan served with the 12th Battalion and was gassed in 1916 then received gunshot wounds the following year. At Bullecourt, France three days after his brother Bob died, Ivan was awarded a military medal after he beat off a heavy attack with a bomb and Lewis gun. He was killed at Armentieres, France on April 23, 1918. Ivan's body was never recovered.

Angus, the sixth son enlisted at the age of 16 in February, 1915. A private,

his Service Number was 1792. He served at Gallipoli in August, 1915 before being redeployed to France. He was killed at the age of 18 on August 25, 1916 at Mouquet Farm near Pozieres, France. Angus's body was never recovered.

Another son, Cecil, attempted to enlist in September, 1914, but his application was rejected.

Annie Whitelaw lost four sons, three were killed in action and another died of wounds.

She could never attend an ANZAC Day Service but would sit in her jinker some distance from where the service was being held and cry.

On Annie's gravestone are the words of Arthur Conan Doyle - "Happy is she who can die with the thought that in the hour of her country's need, she gave her utmost".

Finally, the Whitelaw's youngest son Kelvin, enlisted into the R.A.A.F in the Second World War. Thankfully Annie wasn't alive to see that.

An amazing number of wreaths were laid to commemorate the service of those who went to war and helped to keep our wonderful country safe and free.

It was a time for families to share this tradition and family members could be seen joining with veterans in the march.

It was fine example of Australians showing a national spirit in recognising and showing respect for those who gave so much under such dreadful conditions, but also to remember those still serving our country at home and abroad.



## Lest We Forget

