

Tuesday 18 April 2017



RYDE REMEMBERS WWI ANZACS WITH AVENUE OF HONOUR

An **Avenue of Honour** made up of twelve bronze plaques dedicated to the memory of local World War One servicemen and women will be unveiled at Anzac Park, West Ryde on Anzac Day, Tuesday 25 April 2017.

The plaques were commissioned by the City of Ryde Committee for the Centenary of Anzac as part of the Ryde Remembers tribute to the more than 2,000 local men and women who served in the First World War.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering (Lt Col Retd) said: "This is a fitting tribute to the spirit of Anzac and the gallantry of that generation who helped lay the foundations of our society today.

"The plaques capture a spiritual moment in our history and remind us of the extraordinary sacrifices these men and women made."

Each plaque describes a compelling account, family memory or significant event of the 1914-1918 'war to end all wars'. Abridged description:

- ❁ *Ryde and Eastwood in 1914 – a population of 9,660 residents living in 1,815 houses.*
- ❁ *Ryde Goes To War – At least 2,000 men and women from Ryde and Eastwood municipalities volunteered.*
- ❁ *1914 – Rabaul PNG sinking of Emden eye-witness account of T Gascoigne, Putney.*
- ❁ *1915 – Gallipoli "I don't think that he was ever found ..." Mother of George White, Ryde.*
- ❁ *1916 – France and Middle East "Our poor lad may be suffering from an injury ..." Mother of Henry Nelson, Ryde.*
- ❁ *1917 – Beersheba "He was taken to Tel-el-Jemmi ... where he died on Sunday morning." A B Campbell, Eastwood – Red Cross document.*
- ❁ *1918 – Allies launch attack against the German Army on 8 August "The deceased soldier was accorded a full military funeral ..." Brother of George White, Ryde.*
- ❁ *Armistice – on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent.*
- ❁ *Women in War – Twelve women from Ryde and Eastwood enlisted ... worked in terrible conditions.*
- ❁ *The Home Front – "... the joy we experienced when our parcels began to arrive ..."*

- ❁ *The Home Front – The Voluntary Workers’ Association objective was to build homes for the next of kin of fallen soldiers.*
- ❁ *1914 – 1918 – “The honoured graves beneath the crest of Gaba Tepe hill, May hold our bravest and our best, But we have brave men still.” Lieut. Andrew Barton ‘Banjo’ Paterson, Gladesville.*

Chair of the Centenary of ANZAC Committee, Clr Jerome Laxale, said: “The Committee was formed to promote and commemorate the Spirit of Anzac and we have done that by telling the stories of Ryde’s involvement in WWI through unique community projects like the ‘Avenue of Honour’.

“I particularly want to thank the members of the Ryde District Historical Society for the hard work they have done in assisting Council with this lasting legacy and with other Ryde Remembers projects.”

Members of the community are invited to attend the Anzac Avenue of Honour unveiling ceremony:

When Anzac Day, Tuesday 25 April 2017. Time 9.00 – 10.00am

Where Anzac Park, Anzac Avenue/Wattle Street, West Ryde (rear of Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club)

Light refreshments will be served in the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club from 10.00am.

City of Ryde Centenary of Anzac **Avenue of Honours** project was made possible with assistance from the Community Building Partnership Program - a NSW Government initiative coordinated by the Department of Education and Communities on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

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ATTENDING Mayor, Centenary Committee Chairman, Councillors, GM + Senior staff, Angela Phippen, Kim Phillips + Ryde District Historical Society, Local RSL, Local Schools