

Service sparks memory

DRIVING rain which felt like needles is one memory Mackay woman Josephine Smart has of the 1918 cyclone.

Mrs Smart, 88, was eight-years-old when the cyclone and tidal surge caused havoc in Mackay.

She remembers leaving the family home in the Cremorne area.

"We had to get out of it ... We went across to where Sams Road now is."

Mrs Smart, who was at an unweaving of a memorial to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the cyclone yesterday, said her father then left to help some other people.

She and other family members made their way to shelter in a home on the corner of Kenzey and Malcomson streets.

Mrs Smart, who now lives in Malcomson Street, does not remember being scared during the cyclone, but does remember the rain and the wind.

"The rain was like needles going into you," she said.

After the cyclone, the family stayed with friends before moving to Bundaberg to start over again. They returned to Mackay about five years later.



At the unweaving of a memorial commemorating the 80th anniversary of Mackay's 1918 cyclone are Mayor Cr Julie Boyd, centre, and Eileen and Tom Welch, who lost six family members in the cyclone. 780198

Memorial lists deaths in big blow

By MARK SLEEMAN

A MACKAY man who lost six family members in the 1918 cyclone joined Mayor Cr Julie Boyd in

unveiling a memorial yesterday.

Tom Welch was 12-years-old when the cyclone devastated Mackay.

"I lost my mother four sisters and a brother," he said at yesterday's unweaving, which commemorated the 80th anniversary of the cyclone.

"My (other) brother and father got out of it and I had sister in Brisbane," he said.

Mr Welch was not in Mackay with his family when the cyclone hit. He was at Sarina visiting an aunt.

"But we got the blow down there just the same," he said.

His family lived in a section of the then George Street, which was where the corner of Evan and Stevenson streets is now.

He and wife Eileen now live in Hinton Street. His wife was five-years-old and living in George Street at the time of the cyclone.

"My twin sister and I ... our father carried us through a paddock

into a house' next door," she said.

Members of Mr Welch's family lost in the cyclone were his sisters Elizabeth, Mabel, Rose, and Lucy, his brother Charles and mother Sarah.

Their names are included in a list of people known to have lost their lives in the cyclone, which is on a plaque on the memorial.

Other names on the plaque are: Aboriginal males "Dummy" and "Jimmy", Charles Anderson, William Anderson, Joseph Carr, William Coakley, Richard Francis, Edna Frier, Charles Hartwig, Edward Hehin, JM Kenney, Robert Morton, Armenia Pagel, Alice Amelia Shanks, Alice Shanks, Cyril Shanks, John Shanks, Georgina Renor, Mary Renor, Thomas Renor and an unknown Malay male.

The commemorative monument is the Pioneer River bank, opposite the Leichhardt Hotel in River Street.

Show details Bowen deaths

By BRUCE MCKEAN

THE unsolved murders of two Bowen residents will get national publicity on the television program *Australia's Most Wanted* late next month, Homicide Squad detectives said yesterday.

Investigations into the murder of former Bowen Shire councillor and retired high school teacher Herbert Edward Murray, 73, centre around his missing car, which could be anywhere in Australia, Detective Senior Sergeant Noel Powers of the Homicide Squad said.

"*Australia's Most Wanted* will be here in Bowen on February 3 and 4 and their program returns to air in late February. We hope our case will feature in their first episode," Det Powers said.

"I've got no doubt that it will generate a bit of interest and maybe lead

to a breakthrough," he said.

Police have used an extensive media campaign, and even a case profile on the internet, in the nationwide hunt for Mr Murray's car.

Mr Murray's body was found in a rural house outside Bowen on November 13. He had been shot. The former councillor and maths and swimming teacher, had retired to train race horses as a hobby.

His missing vehicle is a 1990 blue Commodore sedan, registration number 945-BDT.

The television program also was expected to feature the murder of Dianne Mary Angwin, 50, who was stabbed to death by an intruder in her Leichhardt Street flat in Bowen about 1 am on December 1.

Investigations into Ms Angwin's death have centred around local residents. Anyone with information about either death can telephone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



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