

Mackay North State High School Lest We Forget Commemorative Project

Mackay North High's Lest We Forget Project is an on-going project of commemoration undertaken by Senior History students at the school.

The aim of the project is to commemorate and further publicise the sacrifices made by Australians in war and to make practical and respectful tributes to those Australians who have died for our country.

The project revolves around overseas pilgrimages to the battlefields, cemeteries and memorials where Australians have fought and died.

These tours involve the search for individual graves and names and the honouring of these fallen soldiers on behalf of relatives in Australia.

Photographs of the graves and names are taken and presented to relatives on each group's return.

The school has so far undertaken 7 commemorative tours - in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 & 2012. In that time 181 students have travelled to Gallipoli, the Somme and Flanders, Thailand and Singapore and have honoured 669 men and 33 nurses buried or commemorated in these areas.

*"My final thoughts as I watched the silent headstones was that we have to live the life these soldiers gave us we have to live our lives to the fullest, love our friends and family to the utmost.
It's the least we can do - live the life that these men never got."*



For more information on the Lest We Forget Project

Contact: Mr Mike Goodwin

Mackay North SHS – PO Box 8333

Mt Pleasant Qld 4740

Phone: 49 631729

Fax: 49 631600

Email: mickg@mackay.net.au

Website: www.macknortshs.qld.edu.au/ANZAC/index.html

(or Google - 'Mackay North Lest We Forget')

The Lest We Forget Project



Securing our future by respecting our past

Mackay North State High School Footsteps of Honour



2012 Commemorative Tour



Street Memorial Project

Dear Wardrop St Resident

Our names are Rachel Dempster and Kelsie Iorio and we are members of the Mackay North SHS Footsteps of Honour 2012 Tour Group.

This year, our group embarked on a 3 week overseas pilgrimage to the past Australian battlefields, cemeteries and memorials of Gallipoli, France, Belgium and Singapore.

One aspect of our research and commemoration centred around undertaking a local history study of Mackay streets which were named in honour of fallen Mackay soldiers.

In pairs, we all 'adopted' a street and the relevant soldier and, in the lead up to the tour, we researched the war service of "our" soldiers and learnt about the circumstances surrounding each man's death.

On the tour, we visited the graves or the memorials where each of these soldiers is buried or commemorated. At each site, we undertook a service which included the delivery of a eulogy, a recital of The Ode and the observance of a minute silence. We then photographed the grave or memorial name to bring this record back to Mackay.

We were honoured to have researched and commemorated the soldier after whom Wardrop St is named. So as to provide you with a little history of your street, please find over information related to the soldier. We hope you find it interesting.

Wardrop St, Mackay

Named in honour of:
Driver Adam Wardrop
7th Australian Field Artillery, AIF
Died of Illness at sea on 8 May, 1919
Aged 30

Adam was a horse driver living on Nebo Rd in Mackay with his wife, Winnie Wardrop when he enlisted in Rockhampton on 13 March, 1916. He was allotted as a driver to the 7th Aust. Field Artillery & embarked Sydney on 30 Sept., 1916.

He spent some time in training camps in England before joining the 27th Battery of the 7th AFA in France on 5 Feb., 1917. On 27 Sept., he was admitted to hospital with severe mustard gassing, with a medical report of 23 Nov. stating that he, “feels pain while taking exercise, then becomes short of breath, pain in right chest.” Adam never recovered from this. His service thereafter was a tragic progression of illnesses & disease & he never returned to active service.

During 1918 he contracted German measles, Retinitis (an inflammation of the retina) & was later diagnosed with Addison’s Disease, which affects the adrenal gland’s ability to produce sufficient hormones. This led to other problems, particularly with his kidneys. A medical report written on 3 Jan., 1919 stated, “*Patient is in an asthmatic condition. Has had intermittent attacks of vomiting, diarrhoea since admission. Pulse weak, discolouration of skin. Complains of pain in lumbar region. There are some symptoms of bronchitis especially in right lung.*”

Adam’s serious condition worsened when he contracted Chronic Nephritis (a kidney disease) in early 1919 & he was placed aboard the hospital ship “Wandilla” for transportation back to Australia. Tragically, he died on the voyage home, with the medical report stating, “*Condition improved till 29/4/19 - from that date became worse from 4/5/19 much worse epistaxis, vomiting, twitching & asthma. Died 8/5/19.*” Minnie received a letter from the “Wandilla’s” troop commander which read, “*I regret to have to inform you that your husband ... Driver Adam Gladstone Wardrop... died at sea, on 8 May 1919. He embarked on Hospital Ship “Wandilla” in a low condition, suffering with Chronic Nephritis, & although everything possible in the way of medical attention was done for him, his condition gradually became more grave until he succumbed at 3.26 am, 8th May, 1919; his end being peaceful & without pain. He was buried at sea, with full military honours, the same day.*” Like all Australian soldiers who died at sea between England & Australia, Adam’s name appears on the Australian National Memorial.

The Australian National Memorial stands just outside the famous French village of Villers Bretonneux and it records the names of 10 952 Australians who died in France during World War One who have no known grave.



Adam's Commemoration

We were honoured to commemorate Adam at a special group service at the Australian National Memorial on 4 October this year during our overseas pilgrimage.



Kelsie (left)
and Rachel
delivering
Adam's
eulogy
at the service



Adams's name inscribed on the
Australian National Memorial