

# Mackay North State High School Lest We Forget Commemorative Project

Mackay North High's Lest We Forget Project is an ongoing 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 6 commemorative tours - in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 & 2010. In that time 148 students have travelled to Gallipoli, the Somme and Flanders, Thailand and Singapore and have honoured 576 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](mailto:mickg@mackay.net.au)

**Website:** [www.macknortshs.qld.edu.au/ANZAC/index.html](http://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



# *Anzac 2010*

## Commemorative Tour

# *Street Memorial Project*



Dear Harvison St Resident

My name is Jessica Trott and I am a member of the Mackay North SHS Anzac 2010 Commemorative Tour Group.

Our group has recently returned from 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.

Each student '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.

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

## Harvison Street, South Mackay

Named in honour of:  
Pte Thomas Harvison  
Service No. 6037  
9th Battalion AIF  
Killed in Action 12 April, 1917  
Aged 22

Thomas was born in Mackay and was the son of Mary Ann Harvison. He was working as a labourer in Rockhampton when he returned to Mackay to enlist on 25 February, 1916. He was allotted to the 19th Reinforcements to the 9th Battalion and embarked for England in August, 1916.

He joined the 9th Battalion in France on 22 February, 1917 and he was killed in action less than two months later on 12 April as his battalion held a series of outposts near the French village of Lagnicourt.



Thomas was the only casualty in the battalion on that day and the exact circumstances of his death are unknown. It is likely, though, that he was killed by the constant shellfire that the battalion endured during this time.

Thomas has no known grave, which means that he was most likely buried near where he was killed and that the battlefield grave was subsequently destroyed. This was an all too common outcome for men killed in World War One.

Today, Thomas is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial in France. He either still lies lost where he was originally buried or his body was found after the war and was not identified. If this is the case, he lies as an Unknown Soldier somewhere in a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.



The Australian National Memorial is situated just outside the famous French town of Villers Bretonneux. It records the names of 10 952 Australians who died in France during World War One who have no known grave.

### Thomas' Commemoration

I was honoured to commemorated William at a special group service at the Australian National Memorial on 30 September this year during our overseas pilgrimage. Part of the eulogy I delivered for Thomas reads:

*“Thomas Sydney Harvison, I stand before your name on this wall to tell you that Mackay hasn't forgotten you . Rest in peace and know that for as long as I draw breath, your legacy will be heard and remembered. You WILL live on.”*

