

# 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**

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(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 Pirie St Resident

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

This year, our group undertook a 3 week overseas pilgrimage to the past Australian battlefields, cemeteries and memorials of Gallipoli, France, Belgium and the Thai Burma Railway.

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 Pirie 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.

## **Pirie Street, South Mackay**

Named in honour of:

Pte Daniel Pirie

Service No. 1712

49th Battalion AIF

Killed in Action in France on 3 September, 1916

Aged 20

Daniel was the son of John and Annie Pirie, who lived in Evan St, Mackay and he was one of a number of Daily Mercury workers who enlisted in World War One.

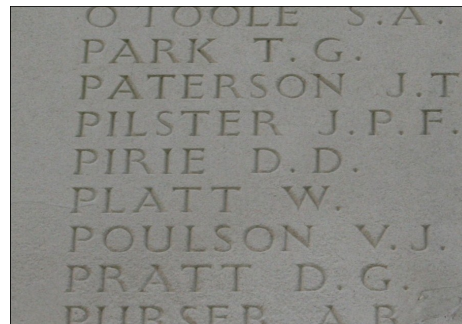
He joined up a month short of his 20th birthday on 3 November, 1915 and embarked Australia on 20 April, 1916 with the 2nd Reinforcements to the 49th Battalion. He joined the 49th in France on 20 August, 1916 and only survived for two weeks before being killed in action during the 49th's unsuccessful attempt to capture Mouquet Farm during the infamous Battle of Pozieres.

Pte A Siddle provided an eyewitness account of Daniel's death:

*"We had reached our objective in the attack on Mouquet Farm early in September. I was 3 or 4 yards away from Pirie who was doing some sniping, when he was himself shot through the head, and killed. I am unable to say what became of the body, but the trench where he died remained in our hands."*

The nature of the actions in and around Pozieres meant that the body of any soldier who was killed was very likely to be lost. This is the case with Daniel, whose body could have been destroyed or buried by the ongoing shelling of the area.

As such, he was listed as missing and killed and today Daniel is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial in France.



**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.**

### **Daniel's Commemoration**

I was honoured to commemorate Daniel at a special group service at the Australian National Memorial on 30 September this year during our overseas pilgrimage. Even though I am not related to Daniel, it was an emotional time for me, especially when I spoke directly to him in my eulogy:

*"Daniel, I stand here with my fellow tour members to remember the sacrifice you made for our country. When you died, you were not much older than I am and I find it difficult to think of how much life you missed out on. We remember you in Mackay through Pirie St and through your name on the Mackay Cenotaph. I will always remember you. Rest in Peace, Daniel."*

