

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 Webberley St Resident

My name is Simon Patton 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 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 Webberley 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.

Webberley Street, Mackay

Named in honour of:
Pte William Webberley
Service No. 542
25th Battalion AIF
Killed in Action on 5 August, 1916
Aged 30

William was a sawmiller from Mackay and was the only son of William and Karin Webberley, who lived on Nebo Rd. At one time, William was the postmaster at Eungella post office.

He enlisted in Mackay on 30 January, 1915 and was an original member of B Company, 25th Battalion. He landed at Gallipoli on 4 September with other Mackay men of the 25th Bn, including Rupert Morley and Herbert Collet, and was evacuated to Egypt with dysentery on 24 Sept.

William rejoined the battalion in Egypt in January, 1916 before embarking with his unit to France, arriving on 19 March. His time in France was to only last a few months as he was killed during the infamous Battle of Pozieres in August.

William died in the battalion's second attempt to capture the heavily defended German OG lines at the Windmill on 4/5 August, 1916. The first attack, a few days earlier, had been a disaster and the Divisional Commander ordered William's brigade to attack again.

The action in which William died was more successful, but the cost in lives was again very high. The two attacks cost the battalion a staggering 685 casualties. The circumstances surrounding William's death are unknown, however the 25th Battalion History notes, "*Their (German) artillery barrage shifted from the old No Man's Land on to OG1 & OG2, & casualties, so far light, began to mount rapidly.*" A few hours later, the 25th had to withstand a strong German counter attack. Whatever the cause of William's death, his body was never recovered or identified and he is today remembered on the Australian National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux 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.

William's Commemoration

I was honoured to commemorate William at a special group service at the Australian National Memorial on 30 September this year during our overseas pilgrimage.

