

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

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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



Footsteps of Honour

2012

Commemorative Tour



Street Memorial Project

Dear Shaw St Resident

Our names are Olivia Attard and Suzi Richards 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 Shaw 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.

Shaw St, South Mackay

Named in honour of:

Pte William Shaw

Service No. 665

26th Battalion AIF

Killed in Action in Belgium on 5 October, 1917

Aged 28

William, known as Bill, was born in Mackay in 1889, the son of Charles and Hannah Shaw. He was working as a labourer when he enlisted in August, 1914 at the age of 24. He sailed with the 9th Battalion and landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915. On this day, Bill received a gunshot wound to his right leg and was transferred to a hospital in Malta.



He rejoined his unit on 17 June and fought through until 15 Nov., when he was evacuated sick. Whilst in Egypt, Bill was admitted to hospital with a hernia which was so serious he had to be sent back to Australia.

After recovering, he was re-allotted to the 26th Battalion and, with his brother, Bert, was sent to France, where he was killed in action on 5 Oct., 1917 at Broodseinde Ridge. Like so many of his comrades killed on this day, Bill's body was lost & his name appears on the Menin Gate Memorial.

As well as having a street named in his honour, he is special to the Footsteps of Honour group as he is Olivia's great, great uncle.



Olivia was also able to pay special tribute to William as part of the group's wreath laying contingent during the famous Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate on Sept. 29.

The Menin Gate Memorial is situated in the famous Belgian town of Ieper (Ypres). It records the names of 54 391 Commonwealth soldiers killed in the Ypres Salient during WW1 who have no known grave.

6176 of these names are Australians.



William's Commemoration

We were honoured to commemorate Bill at a special group service at the Menin Gate Memorial on 30 September this year during our overseas pilgrimage.



Suzi (left) and Olivia at William's name.



Williams's name inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial

