

# 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](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

## *Footsteps of Honour*

### 2012

## Commemorative Tour

# *Street Memorial Project*



Dear Turner St Resident

Our names are Jack Byrne and Jordan Isaacs 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 Turner 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.

## Turner St, Mackay

Named in honour of:  
Lieutenant Reginald Turner  
49th Battalion AIF

Killed in Action in France on 5 April, 1918  
Aged 26

Reginald was the son of Alice Turner of Sydney St, Mackay & was a 23 year old draper's assistant when he enlisted on 26 July, 1915. He was allotted to the 11th Reinforcements to the 9th Battalion & embarked Australia on 21 Oct., 1915. After being transferred to the newly formed 49th Bn in Egypt on 29 Feb., 1916, Reginald was promoted to Corporal before embarking for France with his new unit, arriving there on 12 June.

He was wounded in the 49th's first action at Pozieres, being admitted to hospital with a gunshot wound to his left arm. After his recovery, he re-joined his unit on 24 Sept. & was promoted to Sergeant on 3 Nov. He was then sent to England to attend officer school &, on completion of his course, was appointed as a 2nd Lt. He re-joined his battalion with this new rank on 20 March, 1917 before being promoted to full Lt on 14 June.

He served with the unit until he was killed in action on 5 April, 1918 during the famous Battle of Dernancourt, the largest defensive action undertaken by the AIF during the war. The 49th was involved in a spirited counter attack in an attempt to dislodge the German forces which had overrun Australian positions. Reginald's company bore the full brunt of the German resistance & he was mortally wounded leading his platoon.

His service records state that he was, "... *shot through the body ... & died about 3 hours later, as he was about to be taken out. He was not buried by this unit, but in all probability he would be buried by the 23rd Bn who relieved this unit.*"

This battlefield grave was lost &, in a further blow to his family, five packages of Reginald's personal effects were lost aboard the SS Barunga when it was sunk by a German submarine on its way back to Australia.

In 1920 Reginald's family still believed that he had a known grave. However, they received a letter in May, 1922 which stated, "*Although exhaustive searches and investigations have been made with the object of locating the grave of Lt R.G.T Turner, it has not been possible either to locate his actual burial place or obtain any information which might indicate his probable original or present resting place.*" Reginald's body was most likely found on the battlefield after the war & buried as an unknown soldier in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, which is located a few hundred metres from where he died. This will, of course, never be known & Reginald will no doubt always lie as an unknown soldier.

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.

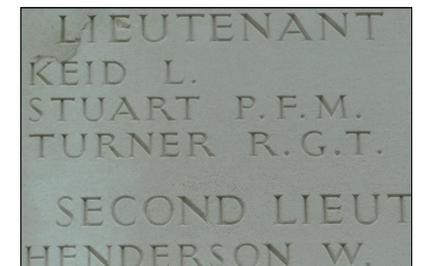
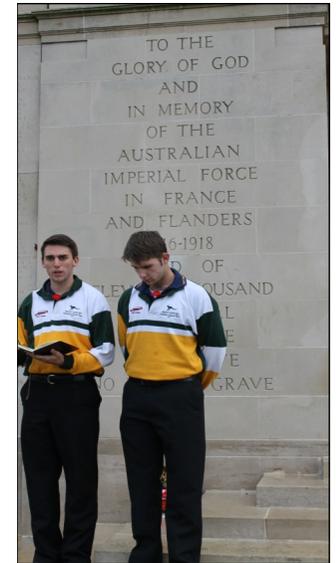


### Reginald's Commemoration

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



Jordan (left) and Jack delivering Reginald's eulogy.



Reginald's name inscribed on the Australian National Memorial