

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 Scanlan St Resident

Our names are Rachel Van Der Veen and Kristen Rasmussen 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 Scanlan 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.

Scanlan St, Mackay

Named in honour of:
Private James Scanlon
Service No. 2250
47th Battalion AIF
Died of Wounds on 11 April, 1917
Aged 25



James was born in Mackay & was working as a labourer when he enlisted in Rockhampton on 6 March, 1916. He left Australia with the 4th Reinforcements to the 47th Battalion on 16 August & joined his unit in France in early February, 1917.

James was killed in his first action, the infamous First Battle of Bullecourt on 11 April, 1917. The 47th Battalion was not assigned as an attacking battalion, however two companies were detailed to support the attackers & a large number of 47th personnel acted as stretcher bearers throughout the long day of the battle.

James' records indicate he was wounded during the battle & treated at the 12th Australian Field Ambulance, where he died the same day. Strangely, he has no known grave, even though his records state a clear position of burial, which places him next to where the 12th Ambulance was situated. It is unusual that his grave was not marked & there is every chance he is buried in the cemetery which was developed at that position - Vaulx Hill Cemetery. Of course, we will never know this & today James is honoured on the Aust National Memorial.

James is the uncle of well know Mackay journalist & historian, Terry Hayes.

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.

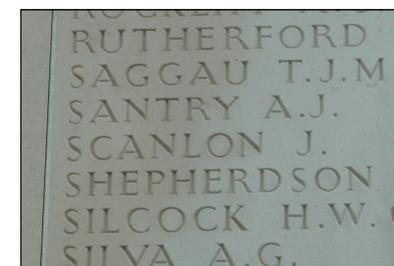


James' Commemoration

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



Rachel (left) and Kristen delivering James' eulogy at the service



James' name inscribed on the Australian National Memorial