Alison Homestead

NEWSLETTER

ANZAC EDITION

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL   P04339.001

CONTENTS

President   Greg Denning

V. President   Barry Angel

Secretary   Margaret Boldt

Treasurer   Wal Billington/Pat Avis

Alison Homestead Museum

1 Cape Road,

WYONG   2259

PO Box 241 Wyong 2259

Telephone: (02) 4352 1886

Email: info@alisonhomestead.com.au

ABN: 76 012 347 584

Management Committee

(Including above)

Richard Ashby

Susan Circosta

Ken Johnston

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have decided that this is my last year as Prez. of Wyong Museum & Historical Society as I feel it's time for new leadership and/ or direction. I will still help with mowing to compliment Dirk & Barry with the lawns and gardens, without their tireless efforts Alison Homestead would look very ordinary. Thanks guys.

The 3 musketeers in the picture are Bob Graham who was a councillor in Wyong Council at the time of the fire in 2011 and a great saviour to preserve Alison Homestead that had been pegged for demolition to make way for 22 town houses. Bob and David Harris on the right were here the morning of the fire already looking to save the homestead for the future. David helped us level here on numerous occasions and even digging holes for the piers for the slab hut. I can remember him in gumboots in the mornings before he headed off to parliament. Myself in the middle, was lucky enough to have people around with still lotza passion for Alison Homestead.

The Entrance Lions Club will be the hosts for a "Biggest Morning Tea" to be held on 26th May starting at 10am at Alison Homestead.

As mentioned I will be retiring in May, an Annual General Meeting will be held at the Homestead on Saturday 13th May at 10am.

Greg Denning

President

COVER PAGE

WYONG MEN OF WW1

During the First World War, many local soldiers who gave their lives are commemorated on the east wall of the Wyong Cenotaph, which was built in 1923 with the help of subscriptions and contributions from the public. Originally situated close to Wyong Railway Station, this monument is currently found on the grounds of the former Wyong Public School and is reachable from Alison Rd.

The Honour Boards, which contain the names of every Wyong man who fought in every war, are located at Club Wyong, formerly known as the Wyong RSL Club. It also has exhibitions of war artefacts from every fight.

The people of Wyong met on August 12th, 1916, to rename Hill St. Wyong in memory of those who lost their lives in Gallipoli. They gave the street the name Anzac Avenue and planted wattles, box, and brush trees there. These trees regrettably no longer exist.

Raymond Leslie Goldsmith – Private Goldsmith enlisted shortly after the outbreak of World War I and was in the 3rd Australia Infantry Battalion which sailed with the first contingent on HMAT Euripiedes on the 19th of October 1914. After serving a time in the Camp at Egypt, he embarked with his comrades to affect a landing at the Dardanelles, Gallipoli, and took part in the heroic dash on April 25th 1915. Private Goldsmith was first wounded on 19th May, and after being in the hospital for about a month, he returned to the front on 26th June. He was wounded again on the 25th of July and died of his wounds on 1st August. Raymond Leslie Goldsmith was the first local Wyong soldier to die in World War I – he was 21 years and 9 months.

A wave of sadness and sympathy spread over the town of Wyong when news of his death became known. His mother, Eliza Goldsmith, unveiled a roll of honour at the Post office, when Anzac Avenue was formally dedicated on 12 August 1916.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY

Morse Code Machine

On display in our Stinson room is the Morse code machine. As telecommunications began to evolve, the Morse Code system became pivotal during the World War eras. During WWII, Morse Code was utilized between warships and naval bases, because radio frequency was limited and also easily identifiable by military enemies.

Bomb Sight WW1

Armed forces aircraft use bombsights to drop bombs precisely. Since World War I, combat aircraft have been equipped with bombsights. Originally found on aircraft built specifically for bombing, bombsights were later added to fighter-bombers and more recent tactical aircraft as they assumed the majority of the bombing responsibilities. A bombsight has to estimate the path the bomb will take after release from the aircraft.

The **Military Jacket of Charles Reginald Huxtable**

This jacket belonged to Captain Charles Reginald Ralston Huxtable, born 1891, was an Australian medical doctor who served in both World Wars and wrote about his experiences in the book "From the Somme to Singapore: a Medical Officer in Two World Wars."

He enlisted in WW1 in the Lancashire Fusiliers as a Medical Officer in 1915. On enlistment he was given the rank of Lieutenant and rapidly earned promotion to Captain. He served at the Somme and other fields of battle in France. He was awarded The Military Cross and Bar and mentioned in "despatches" several times. At the completion of WW1. He remained in Britain to further his medical studies and returned to Australia having finished his studies.

He was discharged from the AIF on the 4th October 1946 with pulmonary tuberculosis and lived to the age of 90 years and died on the 29th July 1980.

Australian forces arrived in Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, at a location now known as Anzac Cove.

The majority of the 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders who arrived on that day experienced fighting for the first time. 2,000 of them had been killed or injured by that evening. A few of the locals that did mot return are shown here

A military failure was the Gallipoli campaign. Bravery, resourcefulness, endurance, and mateship were demonstrated there, but these qualities have since been codified as distinguishing characteristics of the Australian

Thomas Basil Gascoigne - Joined the Australian Navy in 1912 at the age of 21. Tom was a gunner on HMAS Sydney and was wounded, losing an eye, in the Sydney's celebrated victory over the German light cruiser Emden in the Indian Ocean in November 1914, soon after the beginning of WWI.

Tom also claimed to be the first, or among the first, Australian servicemen to set foot on enemy territory. This was immediately after the outbreak of war when a party from HMAS Sydney landed near Rabaul, the capital of the German colony of New Guinea, in order to destroy the radio station there.
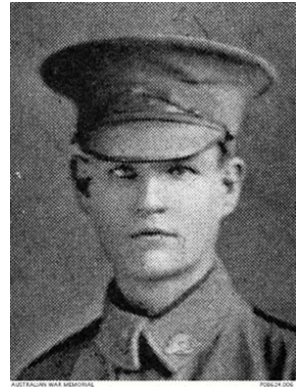

Gilbert Harding – Private – Of Wyong - 3rd Australian Infantry Battalion – Died of Wounds, 15th August 1918, Daours Communal Cemetery

Kenneth George Randall – Private – Of Wyong - 2nd Australian Infantry Battalion – Killed in Action, 23 August 1918, Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres,
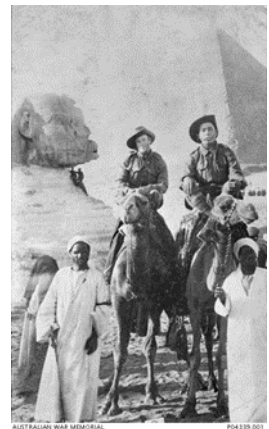
Charles Henry (Harry) Bale - Joined the 35th Australian

Infantry Battalion. He was sent to France where he

died of gunshot wounds on the 22 November 1917. He

is buried in Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, Nord

Pas de Calais, France. Age 19.

Leonard Jean Kelle – Private - 1st Australian Infantry Battalion. Sailed
from Sydney on HMAT Argyllshire on 10th April 1915. He was killed in
action at Gallipoli

Victor Searle – Private – Of Wyong - 20th Australian Infantry

Battalion – Killed in Action 26 July 1916, Villers-Bretonneux

Eric Tate – Sergeant - 20th Australian Infantry Battalion – Died

19th oct 1917, Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders,

*The source of much of this material has been "The
National Archives Of Australia"*

.

Wyong District Museum & Historical Society
ABN: 76 012 347 584

1 Cape Road   PO Box 241, Wyong NSW 2259

Wyong NSW 2259   Telephone: (02) 4352 1886

Email: info@alisonhomestead.com.au   Website: www.alisonhomestead.com.au

We need more volunteers to help out in the Museum gardens, plant nursery, cleaning and in the kitchen serving Devonshire Teas and lunches for group bookings.

If you are interested and can spare 1, 2 or 3 days per week please contact the office Monday to Thursday 10am to 2pm on 4352 1886.

The Men's Shed also require more helpers for maintenance around the Museum and restoration of donated items.