

## Remembrance Day 2019

President Iain, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

At 11 o'clock on this day 101 years ago the guns on the Western Front fell silent, the day marked the end of the First World War.

Today we gather to remember and honour the Men and women who served and are serving in our armed forces and remember those who gave their lives.

From research that I have carried out I have found that our local men began returning to Australia during 1919 and some well into 1920.

We stand before a memorial that was erected to honour the Men and Women from the Camden District who served in the Great War of 1914-1918.

The Camden Fallen Soldiers memorial was funded by public donations from Camden Residents and built by local tradesmen and dedicated in a service in 1922. When we look at the memorial we see a list of names of men who fell in action or died of wounds or illness during the First World War.

Their names and dates of their death and the locations of where they perished are recorded on brass plaques. From Gallipoli to France and England their resting place is recorded for all times.

The Memorial Gates to the Macarthur Park were added later and included the names of the men and women who served during the First World War.

From the memorial gate we find a list of nurses who volunteered to serve, among them was the Matron and some of the nursing staff from the Camden Hospital.

Within 20 years of the dedication of this memorial we find Australia's involved in another World War with our Men and Women serving in the Middle East, Greece, Crete in the Jungles

of New Guinea our Navy serving in the Pacific, Mediterranean, Indian and the Atlantic Ocean's.

The RAAF saw active service in the Defence of Australia the Middle East and the Pacific and Over the Skies of Europe.

Some of our local men served in the Occupation Force in Japan.

The names of those who perished during the Second World War are also inscribed on the Memorial Plaque that was dedicated on Remembrance Day 1951.

Since the end of the Second World War, Australian Service Men and Women have been engaged in a number of Wars and Actions. Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Timor, Iran and Afghanistan.

Each of us here have a memory of a relative or family friend who served in the Australian Forces and today we remember them.

I would like to diverge into my role as Historian for the Sub Branch and speak about a few of the men whose names appear on the Memorial.

From the First World War Plaque

Bugler Milton Thornton was born in Camden in 1895 and lived with his parents in Argyle Street. Milton was employed as a tailor when he enlisted in September 1914 he was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Milton was killed in action on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1915 at Gallipoli and is buried on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private Frederick Oscar Kelloway was born in Camden in 1893 living with his parents at Mount Hunter. Frederick was employed as a Labourer when he enlisted in October 1915 and assigned to the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Frederick died of wounds on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1916 in Flers, France he is buried in Saint Saviours' Cemetery, Rouen, France.

Lance Corporal Hector Small was born in Theresa Park in 1892. Hector served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment, he died of Disease caught on the Gallipoli Peninsula on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1915 he passed away in the Number 1 General Hospital. Hector is buried in the Cairo, War Cemetery.

From the Second World War Plaque

Flight Sergeant Colin Tate was born in 1917 at Randwick. Colin was the Newsagent in Camden when he enlisted in the RAAF. Colin was posted to 460 Squadron. Colin was killed in action over Germany on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1944 and he is buried in Harrowgate Cemetery in Yorkshire, England.

Private Robert James Auld was born in Camden in 1914 he enlisted in the Army and was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese and died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1945 in Borneo. Robert's name appears on the Labuan Memorial in Malaysia.

Gunner Francis Orchard Gunn was born in Camden in 1914 and worked at Camden Park as an Orchard Hand. Francis enlisted in June 1940 and was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. He passed away in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in Thailand in September 1943 he is buried in Myanmar.

The names of the men and women who served are honoured on in Local Churches, The RSL Club and the Wall of Remembrance at the RSL and other memorials located throughout the District.

What does Remembrance Day mean to me, it reminds me of my grandmother and of her brother who served on the Western Front and was killed in Action at Villers Bretonneux, he is remembered on the Wall of the Australian Memorial at Villers Bretonneux his body was never found.

It also remind me of my late father who served with the sixth Division in the Middle East, Greece and Crete, I think back to the many trips I made with my mother and brother to visit him in Concord Repatriation Hospital.

Let us all reflect on the memories we have of family members who served in the Armed forces of Australia and remember those who served and are still serving in the defence forces of Australia.

Lest We Forget