

## BINGINWARRI LANDCARE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY ANZAC PROJECT

by Kaye Proudley

Back in 2014, one of BLG's members, Margaret Ferguson, had an idea to commemorate the men of Binginwarri who enlisted in WW1 and asked for approval to run it through Landcare – and she was given the okay as long as she did the work, seeing that our committee consisted of so few and had their work cut out already.

She got to work with a vengeance and in no time had secured various donations – a ¾ tonne pink granite rock from Tony Williams Landscaping in Foster, a plinth and gravel to surround it from Hedley Range Services, more gravel from Charlie Jones, 6 well-established English Oak trees, machinery to bring the rock onsite from John Lustgraaf, etc. etc.... and then she unexpectedly and tragically died on her farm on 13th Dec 2014. We were stuck with things we had to make good on – so the remaining committee took up the cudgel and installed the rock with help from local farmers Neil Kay and Ron Jones, and BLG members Les Bird, Roy Proudley and John McClumpha – the last two also installed treeguards and re-jigged the boundary fence, as well as numerous other jobs that needed to be done.

Then came the research side – that was my job and it took me 10 months and hundred's of phonecalls and a very patient husband! We made it with a week to go before the ceremony - 22 of the 27 men on the Bingi State School's Roll of Honour traced with 6 killed in action, and another 10 men found from the area who did not go to the school but went to war, all traced except 1, with another 1 killed in action from this group.

We decided we would honour ALL the men named and all who were traced because whether they served overseas or not, they showed willing. Then it was onto finding their descendants to invite to the dedication ceremony... cold-calling is not my idea of fun and there were more disappointments than successes, but we did succeed in finding about 100 relatives, of whom about 64 attended - including 4 from interstate.

Then there were locals making up about another 20 or 25 so we had a great roll up on the day. The Hall was decked out in masses of historical & First World War memorabilia – the original Shire of Alberton Honour Board, WW1 medals, trench art and memorabilia on loan from Margery Missen, Heather McAlpine and Cameron and Shari Stone, who incidentally also brought a WW2 Bofors Gun (that was a highlight!), a large collection of old-time postcards and even a couple of 1915 Bingi Hall's Dance entrance tickets thanks to Dallas Bye, and paperwork like war posters, snippets from the local newspaper of the time and service records - by myself.

Ann Kay and Nadine Greenaway supplied Red Poppies for the tables and the wreath. The Yarram RSL represented by it's President Rick Rogers and Secretary Karen Rogers, with flag-bearer Glyn Taylor ran the service (on the corner of Tap Tap & School Roads where the trees are planted and the Rock located) and provided the programmes with The Reverend Jo White conducting the blessing of the rock.



**Margaret Ferguson**

Kay Kay made the wreath from Bay Laurel leaves from a tree planted at the school for that very reason, whilst Neil Kay laid the wreath and Ann Kay read the bible reading. I read the Honour Roll of names, we had the Last Post and Reveille, we sang Advance Australia Fair and then the service was all over.



**Kaye Proudley, Rick Rodgers, Jo White and Glyn Taylor at the memorial plaque.**



**Photographs and details of service of some local service men**

Those who wanted to, walked up to St John's Church at Binginwarri to look at the School's Honour Board where it has been kept since the school closed down, and then we all went to the hall to look at the display and catch up with family members – but mostly to partake in the beautiful afternoon tea prepared by Ann Kay and her crew of willing kitchen hands – Judy McLachlan, Ann Lustgraaf, Marie Pretty & Deb. We thank all of the Anzac biscuit and scone-makers, including Shari and Colleen Murphy.



**A sample of the memorabilia of display**

There were a few surprises in searching the men's war records – some didn't actually make enlistment (due mostly to not being medically fit) despite their names being on the Honour Board, there were those who went overseas and spent their time going from hospital to the front and back and forward the whole time with diseases, or those men going AWOL or were up on charges of being drunk and disorderly whilst on duty, or brawling or refusing to obey their officer's commands. Can't say as I blamed them given the position they were in! I did have to be a bit careful about what paperwork I decided to display.

Binginwarri Landcare Group thanks everyone for their help and support including Wellington Shire Council. Hope I haven't missed anyone who contributed – if so, my sincerest apologies. I think Margie would have been happy with what we produced on the day. I know John McClumph and I were.



**The Bofors Gun**

**The plaque on reads:**

**THESE OAK TREES WERE PLANTED TO COMMEMORATE THE MEN OF BINGINWARRI AND DISTRICT WHO LEFT OUR SHORES TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 – 1918 NOT ALL RETURNED THIS PLAQUE WAS LAID IN 2015 DURING THE ANZAC CENTENARY YEARS 2014 – 2018**

The men who were honoured in this project were:

- Altham, Walter
- Anquetil, Henry Stewart – KIA
- Appleyard, Charles Courtney – KIA
- Appleyard, Darcy James
- Appleyard, Edgar - KIA (cousin to the rest who were all brothers)
- Appleyard, Ernest
- Appleyard, Gordon William - KIA
- Appleyard, Leopold Arthur
- Appleyard, Richard Albert
- Atley, 'Mac' Alexander
- McDonnell Balmer, Edward Norman Cartwright, Joseph Alfred
- Crisp, Bernard \* Crisp, John
- Donnolly, John \*
- Ewell, Thomas Fisher, Percy Charles
- Flinn, John Manton
- Hanrahan, John Kerr, E. \* Kerr,
- Lesley James
- Loh, Theodore
- Lucas, Charles Frederick
- Lucas, James Nathaniel
- Lucas, Richard Albert
- McInnes, Donald \*
- McInnes, Francis Duncan Morrison, Hugh
- Moulden, William – KIA
- O'Toole, Arthur Reid, A. \*
- Roberts, C. E. R. \* Ross, David
- Saal, Christopher – KIA
- Sebire, Francis Henry – KIA
- Sedunary, Edward Smith, Albert Edward