



FROM THE COAST

ANZAC Day in Esperance

Tomorrow marks more than 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War. It is the day we recognise the sacrifice made by the ANZACs and all servicemen and women who have dedicated their lives to defend our country.

Last year several murals were unveiled at the Esperance Returned and Services League Sub-Branch which were created by Graeme Miles. Six ceiling murals were unveiled last year on Remembrance Day and the Light Horse Mural depicting the Battle of Beersheba was unveiled on ANZAC Day.

The Battle of Beersheba took place on 31 October 1917 and was the historic charge the 4th Light Horse Brigade made on the heavily fortified town of Beersheba. This year marks 100 years since the battle and it is great we have this beautiful mural in time for the anniversary. They are marvellous pieces of work and I encourage you to go and have a look at them if you haven't already seen them.

Esperance is the home of many of Australia's War Heroes so it is difficult to draw out individual names. Twenty men from the Esperance region were killed during the First World War.

Leslie Thomislav (Thomas) Starcevich grew up in Grass Patch and fought for Australia in several conflicts during the Second World War. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in May 1945 as part of the 9th Division offensive. He eventually returned to Grass Patch and died in 1989. He was buried with full military honours at the local lawn cemetery in Esperance.

The 10th Light Horse Esperance Troop are back again this year for the parade through town which steps off at 5:50am for the Dawn Service which is to start at 6am. The parade for the main service steps off at 10:40am for the service to start at 11am.

This year's Dawn Service will be followed by a Gunfire Breakfast which is hosted by the Rotary Club of Esperance and the Main Service will be followed by a barbeque lunch put on by Esperance Lions Club. The RSL will be open for those interested in playing two up from 1pm to 4pm in the afternoon. This game was played by Australian soldiers during World War I. ANZAC Day in Esperance is always special so if you are in town you may wish to attend one of the services.