

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

2019 ANZAC Day Morning Service

Hamilton Hill Memorial

Cnr. Carrington Street & Rockingham Road

Hamilton Hill

Distinguished guests, Veterans, the Serving Men and Women of the Australian Defence Force, Ladies and Gentlemen, girls and boys.

The ANZAC spirit is alive and well in Australia and in all places around the world where Aussies, Kiwis and others come out to commemorate the fallen and those who returned to our shores over a century ago.

Veterans and serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force and that of New Zealand will gather at memorials to pay their respects and to remember our ANZACS and all who have followed in their footsteps – whether it be at Gallipoli, Villers-Bretonneux, Canberra, Perth or in small towns each will have a special meaning to those present.

Earlier this morning my wife Pat and I, together with several Councillors, attended the ANZAC Day Service held within the Banjup Memorial Park in Rose Shanks Reserve, near the corner of Armadale Road and Warton Road in the suburb of Treeby, formerly Banjup.

It is a place where an increasing number of people gather to reflect on the young men of Banjup who made the ultimate sacrifice at that time, for King & Country and for those who returned from World War 1 affected by their wounds, some visible, some not.

The Banjup Memorial Park was established in 1920 and comprised an avenue of 14 gum trees and a memorial plaque listing the names of those who had left their community to fight in a far distant land.

The Roll of Honour reflects a list of household names and through time those family names for the most part, continue in the Cockburn district.

W Atkins (killed in action)

T Buckingham (killed in action)

S G Cook

B Goodman (killed in action)

A P Joyce (wounded)

R H Joyce (wounded)

T B Joyce (killed in action)

H Nunn (wounded)

A B Ribe (killed in action)

F C Ribe

J H Ribe

E R Treeby

F W Treeby (killed in action)

H C Treeby (wounded)

The wooden honour board that was in the old Banjup Hall naming each of the above is now held at the Azelia Ley Homestead Museum.

The widening of Armadale Road a few years ago saw the memorial site boundary slightly amended and the inclusion of a new plaque on a granite stone to reflect the then upgrade of the Memorial Park itself.

The plaque has the dubious honour of recording the highest 'Killed in Action' and 'Wounded' on a percentage basis of population than on any other War Memorial in Western Australia.

It must have been a severe blow to the small Banjup community of those days to lose so many young men to war – the entire population would have only been around 200 at most.

I commend the Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, the Atwell Scout Group, the Banjup Residents Group, the Banjup community, and the descendants of the men who served from that community and others who have kept the home fires burning in respect to this memorial site – today approximately 300 people gathered to remember those brave young men.

Just as the numbers continue to rise at commemorative services those attending the Banjup Memorial Service have seen numbers grow year on year.

In closing, no matter where military battles are fought the ANZAC spirit remains as strong as it ever was – courage, endurance and mateship are reflected in the flags of Australia and New Zealand as they flutter in all their glory.

Lest we forget!