



From our President's desk



Hello again,

We're making some excellent progress in the countdown to 5 September in Wagga Wagga.

Several more towns have been in touch to organise an evening around our being in their town, and we are delighted with these contributions. It's going to mean a splendid experience for the youngsters especially: a unique event which so many can participate in.

Breadalbane is the latest to join the growing list – welcome Breadalbane! Elsewhere in this issue you'll find an item about Junee District's proposed programme, and a hint of the plans from the Cootamundra Community.

And, very pleasingly, we have a communiqué developing with the Council at the end-of-the-line viz: Campbelltown. Campbelltown are offering huge assistance to make the finalé worthy of the men of 1915 whom we seek to honour.

On another front, we have gained more traction on our detailed route consideration. A meeting with the Major Events team for NSW has helped us refine the route to maximise safety of all participants, whilst still leaving latitude for full enjoyment of the March. We'll probably have to march/walk a few more kilometres to achieve it, and that's fine!

Do keep a weather eye on our website

www.kangaroomarch.org.au as this Bulletin and the website are the only mass means we have of reaching everyone with latest developments.

Graham Brown

President, Kangaroo March Centenary Re-enactment Association

► Out and About

Our wonderful RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir 'Mobs' are gaining heaps of experience at various gigs, the latest being at the popular annual Goulburn Show. Our energy-personified and talented Music Director OJ Rushton was on hand all weekend with her team of choristers and the local Choir 'Mob' convenor for Goulburn Angela Nance.

And the almost indefatigable husband and wife team of David and Angela Williamson rocked up for a day of the show and spoke with hundreds of Show attendees about our 36 day event in September-October. Our sincere thanks to Show organisers for facilitating our involvement.

The Town Crier was entranced to see others apart from himself dressed in period costume so we took a record to prove it:



David and Angela with Town Crier Alan Moyle

► Cootamundra Shire's Kangaroo March Committee

An active team of citizens has formed to welcome the re-enactment into the Shire and facilitate community engagement with a series of events which we are just becoming privy to. Included in the activities are a BBQ dinner and an Open Air Movie, and Cadets will enact a flag-raising ceremony. There's to be a display of historical memorabilia and photographs from WW1, and also a Street Parade, and a cricket match. All this and more in only two and a half days.

Sounds like we'll need to bus out of Cootamundra Shire rather than March!



► Junee Shire gearing up for 8-11 September

The enthusiastic, and talented, Junee Shire Re-enactment Committee has produced a splendid programme for the March progress from Tuesday 8th to Friday 11th.

“The March will be in our Shire for 4 evenings: first two in Junee, 3rd in Illabo and 4th Bethungra. The first evening in Junee, apart from the Cenotaph ceremony, will be a catching up on rest and do own thing, evening. 2nd evening in Junee will be held at the historic flour mill which is the Chocolate & Licorice Factory, whereby a ‘Call to Arms’ will be played out, children’s choir, meal and old time dance.

3rd evening in Illabo will be held at the Illabo Hall with rabbit stew and melodrama based on a recorded incident during the March between Junee & Illabo. Illabo puts on a melodrama every 2nd year which runs for several weekends and is fully booked. Their talent is well known.

4th evening in Bethungra is to be held at the ‘Olde School T-House - camp oven stew with damper, a local talented bush band, dancing, bush poet – once again an amazing evening is assured.

We will also be holding activities during the second day in Junee which will see children playing games from that era, poetry recitals & much more.

Neil Druce from the Junee Chocolate & Licorice Factory and Gaylene Crabtree from the Olde School T-House, are taking orders for comfort tins based on those given to our soldiers during the First World War. These tins are being numbered, contain chocolate wrapped in gold foil (as it was then), especially designed handkerchief and tea in a calico bag. They are selling for \$20 each and it would be a good idea to place orders with Gaylene on mobile: 0458 638 687 or Neil on mobile: 0422 866 618.

As our shire has so much to offer during this commemoration we suggest people come here and attend all three functions but book in soon for accommodation and for our special Evenings as well.

For further information please contact Susan Moloney (Secretary, Junee Shire KMR) on mobile: 0419 207 620 or fontenoy44@gmail.com”

► Fitness

It’s getting serious now, folks. Those committed to marching a few days or more, do ensure you are stepping out regularly and gradually increasing the distance covered. If you need a new pair of walking shoes, we hope you’ve thought on to buy them early and break them in. Oh, and have you remembered to apply for leave ? Now there’s a nice thought :)

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY FOR THE BULLETIN?
IF SO, PLEASE EMAIL
stories@kangaroomarch.org.au**

► How do I join the Kangaroo March Association?

Visit our website, www.kangaroomarch.org.au
From The Project tab, click on either ‘Get Involved’ or ‘Become a Member’ and complete either form, & click ‘submit’.

Kangaroo March Centenary Re-enactment Association Inc. Committee

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And from the archives...

Courtesy of Sherry Morris, author of The Kangaroo March

MARK REDHEAD

Mark Redhead was one of the first men to enrol for the Kangaroo March on 19 October 1915. Mark was an intelligent and hard working 20-year-old. The youngest of six children of English immigrants, James and Sabina, he was born on 7 May 1895. Educated at Wagga Wagga Primary and High Schools, he commenced work in the office of T. Edmondson & Co, one of the largest stores in Wagga Wagga, at the age of 14. He was later employed as a clerk in the office staff of Mahon and Headley, local brewers.

Recognising his abilities and his 'ever ready willingness' to assist, the organising committee of the Kangaroo contingent immediately appointed him as its secretary. He had the honour of being presented with the first of the badges (#1) presented to each of the Kangaroos on the march.

Mark Redhead also proved to be an excellent instructor. He was appointed as a Corporal on the Instructional Staff while the Kangaroos trained at the Goulburn AIF Camp. He also assisted with training in Egypt and at Hurdcott-Tidworth in England where he remained for a year on permanent cadre after most of the Kangaroos departed for France in August 1916.

Six weeks after he joined his unit in France he was wounded in the Battle of Polygon Wood when portions of a shell struck him in the face and right shoulder and pierced his right eardrum. He was invalided to England and did not return to the front.

The Kangaroo March Re-enactment Committee has been thrilled to have contact with Mark Redhead's son, his grandson and the extended family. In fact, the Redhead family travelled a fair way to attend our Launch in Wagga Wagga in December 2013.



Mark Redhead in uniform, photograph (after the march) sent to his brother in February 1916.

Janine King who lives in Balmoral Village writes that she has learned, in her research of a publication by one John Meredith the following: 'The Kangaroos left Mittagong at 9.30 a.m on New Year's Day, and were escorted as far as Braemar by the Mittagong Band and a number of townspeople. The contingent received an ovation from the boys of the Mittagong Farm Homes, and the men were presented with fruit from the orchard attached to the Homes.

The Kangaroos were entertained at lunch on Saturday by the residents of Balmoral and district, and then left for Thirlmere."

From conversations with local residents it was recalled that the men had their lunch at Truro. At the time it was owned by a "game and oyster merchant" so perhaps they were very well fed!