

Toora Bungles



Volume 25 Issue 8
May 2019

Anzac Day Service 2019

The traditional 11am Anzac Day Service at Tooraweenah saw the Memorial Hall packed once again to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom. The service was chaired by President of the Anzac Day committee, Lester Thurston, assisted by John and Peter Jenkin, Ken Sandford, Michael Whale, Ross Alison, Doug Robertson, Barry Chandler and Ken Gordon. Tooraweenah Public School children sang at the service in the hall and later carried the wreaths to the recreation ground where they laid them reverently at the War Memorial.

The stage was hung with the Australian Flag; the White Ensign of the Australian Navy; and the Kookaburra March Flag of 1916. In his welcome, Lester recalled the landing at Gallipoli 104 years ago and reminded the audience that 2019 is the seventieth anniversary of the foundation of the Bedford Park and Tonderburine Soldier Settler blocks. The settlers, lately servicemen, often with no rural experience or background, arrived to bare blocks averaging 1100 acres. There they faced the daunting tasks of fencing, clearing, farming and stocking their land. Most with wives, some with families as well, they bravely built a basic garage as shelter while their simple home could be constructed.

The prologue, delivered thoughtfully by Lester, introduced the official service where the occasional address was presented by John Jenkin of Bringle. Many of the Jenkin family, descendants of Bill Jenkin and his wife, Lorna, were in the

audience and had assisted John with his address. Jodie (Jenkin) Peart accompanied the hymns while Kristi Jenkin produced the Power Point and newsreel presentations.

Sixteen beautiful wreaths were laid by individuals and organisations, commemorating relatives and other residents who served in different conflicts, before Lester thanked all who had helped with the service, including the "troop of girls" who arranged the flowers; Tooraweenah CWA members who made red poppies for distribution; and Ken Gordon who arranged a display of war memorabilia.

In a nice tribute to WWII returned serviceman, Sonny Sandford, seated with those on the stage, Lester advised that the Anzac Day Committee had already "booked him up" for next year.

Following the short commemoration at the War Memorial most visitors enjoyed a get-together and a sausage sizzle provided by the Anzac Day Committee at the Mountain View Hotel.



Lester Thurston and John Jenkin

Mountain View Hotel May 2019

Dining Hours: Lunch 12-2pm; Dinner 5:30-8pm

Friday Nights: Happy Hour 5-6pm

Saturday Nights: Community BBQ Tea 6pm

Friday 3rd: RAW Muscle presents Ladies Night
Doors open 8pm; show starts 8:30

Sunday 12th: Mother's Day Lunch 12-2pm
Bookings by Wed 8th; \$35/adult; \$10 /child

Mains
Chicken breast with mashed potato, vegetables, creamy garlic wine sauce **or**
Beef with roast vegetables, mustard sauce

Dessert

Sticky date pudding **or** Cheesecake

Children: Nuggets **or** Fish & Chips & Paddle Pop

Sunday 19th: Drought Buster Family Fun Day.
Free family fun afternoon to forget the drought

Friday 31st: Curry Food Night 5:30-8pm

Wednesday 1st, 15th, 29th: Pool Comp \$5 pp. Winner takes all. Names from 6pm; 6:30 start



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Anzac Day Address 2019

In his Anzac Day address, John Jenkin of Bringle, Tooraweenah, presented accounts of the military service of his father, the late William (Bill) John Jenkin; of the crucial Kokoda Campaign in Papua New Guinea in 1942; and of John's own family's trek on the Kokoda Track in 2018.

Initially Bill Jenkin was refused permission to enlist, as his civilian work was central to the demands of the Australia home front. In 1944 he enlisted as an aircraft mechanic with the RAAF and later carried out reconnaissance missions in Papua New Guinea, at Port Moresby, and to other destinations. Discharged in 1946, he re-enlisted, with "VIP" duties which included flying Prime Minister Ben Chifley around the country, before final discharge in 1948, when he returned to establish a business in rural Victoria. In 1977 Bill bought Ridgeland at Tooraweenah from the Buckley family. Bill, wife Lorna and family, remained in the district from that time onward, with his son, Peter, still farming at Ridgeland.

John Jenkin's interest in military history informed his passionate and detailed address on the Kokoda Campaign in New Guinea where the Australian 39th Brigade, a militia force under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner, encountered the "brutal power" of the Japanese Imperial Army. In 1942 the Australian armed forces in New Guinea, seriously depleted by the troops fighting with the Allies in Europe, were "almost defenceless" against the Japanese intent upon capturing Port Moresby as an airbase for an attack on Australia. Orders to the men of the militia, average age eighteen years, were to "stop Japan at all costs; to fight to the death." For some time, Great Britain both ignored Australia's urgent pleas for military assistance and failed to comprehend the real strength of the Japanese. Under appalling jungle conditions, often close to starvation and beset by illness, the 450 men of the Australian 39th fought on until the 21st and 22nd/14th battalions

arrived to assist. Although the "gallant 39th" were ordered to withdraw they turned back to show that courage, mateship, sacrifice and endurance they forged with such honour and duress.

The Australian troops encountered the full force of the Japanese in the terrible conflict at Isurava. After further months of fighting, the Japanese suffered such debilitating disease and lack of support that they faced defeat and finally the Australians were able to take control of the beaches to the north of the Owen Stanleys. Australia, its future and way of life were saved by the bravery and fortitude of those who fought that campaign. John warmly acknowledged the role of the famous "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels", the local tribesmen who had carried Australian supplies up the track and carried the wounded down. Despite being regarded as significant heroes of the Kokoda Campaign, the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels were never awarded a medal by Australia.

In 2018, John, his daughters Jodie and Kristi and son, Benn, undertook the Kokoda trek as a family to recognise the significance of Kokoda to Australia. Grandsons of the original Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels were among the "caring and gentle" carriers on John's trek. As John pointed out, his family's venture was not about experiencing the "physical difficulties [of the 1942 battle], but about comprehending and coming to terms with the epic campaign to save Australia". Bill Jenkin's descendants last year "stood at dawn at the granite monument at Isurava in reflection on the sacrifice."

"Courage, mateship, sacrifice and endurance – the spirit of Anzac," John said, adding: "The spirit of Anzac *made* Australia and the spirit of Kokoda *saved* it."

John's daughter, Kristi, concluded the address with a presentation of newsreel footage of the Kokoda Campaign, accompanied by Slim Dusty's powerful rendition of *The Ragged Bloody Heroes of That Grim Kokoda Track*.



The Jenkin family (Ian Cruickshank background)
Joan Jenkin photographer



Tooraweenah Community Bus

Door-to-door pick up 9am to Gilgandra,
returning about 2.30pm to Tooraweenah

2019 Schedule

May 14 & 28; June 11 & 25; July 9 & 23; August 13 & 27

Always the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month

Please ring to book: 6817 8750

CWA News



Hi to all

Another successful activity has come and gone. We send many thanks to all who helped with time or donations for the Tooraweenah Endurance Ride to make it a great weekend.

Our new curtains are up so the CWA room's renovations are finished. Our coffee mugs are selling well. Don't forget Mother's Day – the mugs would make a great gift.

We extend a big welcome to Diane Eaton and hope your time in CWA is enjoyable for you. At the same time we farewell Heather Ayson who is moving to Dubbo. Our sincere thanks for your help over the years, Heather.

Congratulations to the first and second place getters in *The Land Branch Cookery Competition*, Janice Baker and Dalene Pretorius for the Lime and Buttermilk Cake and Jill Blackman and Denise Quealy for the Date Loaf.

The CWA was pleased to join many others in laying a wreath at the Tooraweenah Anzac Service.

Don't forget our *Sip and Sew* Thursdays and remember our next meeting, Wednesday May 8 at 10am.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Cath Waller, Publicity Officer



The Land Branch Cookery Competition Entrants

Around the Traps

Tooraweenah LPO

The rainfall for Tooraweenah for April was 0mm falling over 0 days with a YTD total of 199.6mm over 17 days. We recorded a fall of 102mm on March 30, too late for publication in the last issue. Most of the Tooraweenah district had over 80mm. Filling farm dams was a relief but it did cause a lot of erosion and many fence and flood gate repairs. Let's hope we see some follow up soon.

Please ensure you use your correct mailing address to speed up sorting and delivery, make sure your mail has been correctly addressed and you put the appropriate amount of postage on larger letters.

A reminder: the Tooraweenah Post Code is 2817.

If you require parcels to be delivered to your door by the mail contractors, your suppliers need to be advised of this. The default option usually requires a signature on delivery and collection from the post office. In today's changing world of online purchasing, many parcels can be delivered but the receiving roadside mailbox is far too small.

Pub Community BBQs

The April BBQs at the hotel were run by the Tooraweenah P A & H Association Inc; thank you to all who assisted in any way. The month was very successful with funds raised going towards general maintenance and the running of the 2019 annual show. The May BBQs are to be run by the Tooraweenah Cricket Club. Why not bowl on in during May for a great meal supplied by the cricket club? Watch the local

notice boards for menus.

Lions Clothing Bin

Residents who take advantage of the Lions Clothing bin are reminded that it is for clean clothing. If anyone has clean blankets or doonas not being used we can find them a home in the cooler weather. Thank you for your support.

Biggest Morning Tea *Change of Date! Change of Date!*

Tooraweenah's Biggest Morning Tea is on again on Saturday May 18, outside Tooraweenah Trading Co from 10am. J N J's coffee van will be in attendance. Please bring a plate to share. If you have something to trade an opportunity will be available to make some extra funds for the Cancer Council on our trading table.

It was decided to change to election day rather than calling everyone back to town the following Saturday.

Anzac Day

The Tooraweenah Anzac Service was held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday April 25 and the Anzac Day Committee would like to thank everyone associated with bringing the day together. There is considerable preparation, including setting up the hall, decorating, organising food for the lunch, serving and cooking the same and of course arranging for our annual guest speaker, John Jenkin this year. It is a great community commemoration and get together each and every Anzac Day. Well done Tooraweenah.

Cheers, Lester

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www.agriculture.gov.au	Salvation Army: 1300 551 030
www.raa.nsw.gov.au	St Vincent de Paul: 13 18 12 &
www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au	Vinnies.org.au
Farmer Assistance Hotline:	Loop: Pip Job: 0437 241 688
13 23 16	Mental Health:
Service NSW: 13 77 88 for	www.ramph.com.au &
LLS & Class 1 Vehicle waivers	ramph@newcastle.edu.au



Tooraweenah Police Column with Senior Constable Ben Lavender

Another successful and memorable Anzac Day has come and gone. It's always great to see the turnout, and the respect the community pays to fallen Diggers is inspiring. A special thanks goes to all involved in the organisation of the day, particularly John Jenkin for a captivating presentation and Sonny Sandford for his service. Lest we forget.

On a professional level, I have noticed of late some vehicles travelling through town at speeds in excess of the signposted speed limit. Whilst I am aware there are many travellers passing through, I remind everyone that this newsletter reaches, of the importance of sticking to the speed limit. The town often has people walking around appreciating Tooraweenah, and who wouldn't

want to take the time to see our nice little village? So please ensure their safety.

On a final Police related note, I encourage all members of the community to come forward and report any suspicious behaviour. No matter how small or insignificant you may think the behaviour is, if it seems out of place it usually is. Please see me in person or contact me on 6848 1044

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new owners of Tooraweenah Caravan Park, Scott and Janelle. I might be throwing Janelle in the deep water here, but she does make a great biscuit.

Lastly, I wish to congratulate Geoff and Sarah on their retirement and applaud them for all the hard work they did in creating a stunning caravan park. May they enjoy safe and fun-filled travels.

Tooraweenah Public School

Moorambilla

Huge congratulations to Taylor McDonnell who has been selected for the Moorambilla Voices Choir and has also been chosen to attend an intensive skills workshop. Michelle Leonard OAM, leader of *Moorambilla Voices*, believes Taylor's voice is among the fifty best in the region. These children will be considered for the recording tour in June.

Sporting Schools Grant Term 2

Our \$1500 Sporting Schools grant will fund Mark Pitts' coaching in rugby, fitness and team building for eight weeks as well as updating sports equipment.

External Validation

All schools undergo external validation of their systems and processes every five years. In Term 3 Tooraweenah will undergo validation. This process will develop skills in reflective processes and data driven systems which enhance student learning. The Department of Education will fund four days' release for this professional learning.

Preschool Visits

We have welcomed the preschool into our K/1/2 class for reading on Thursday afternoons. Both preschool and school students have enjoyed this initiative which will continue each week.

Crazy Hair Day

School leaders organized a Crazy Hair Day gold coin fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis last term.

Pie Drive

Thank you to parents and community for support with this very successful fundraiser. Special mention goes to coordinator, Cherie McWhirter.

Writing

Students in Years 1-6 have been developing genre writing skills with Mrs Jenkin and Mrs Smith. In Years 3 to 6, persuasive writing has been the focus with students completing their persuasive texts.

School students about to march to the War Memorial

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)

Students K-6 have been challenged with open-ended STEM activities with Miss Barwick. Da Vinci's bridge and an egg drop challenge have been among the activities experienced.

Coding

With expert teaching from Petria and James Cameron, K-6 have been learning to code with robots such as the Bluebot and Cubetto. New and exciting things are planned for Coding next term.

Anzac Day

The Anzac Day Service at the Tooraweenah Memorial Hall is an important day in our school calendar. We were honoured to present the song 'We'll Take Beersheba'. Soulah Hughes and Tallis Brown laid the school wreath and students marched to the cenotaph. Students participated respectfully in the service, acknowledging the sacrifices of our servicemen and women.

Transition to School

Tooraweenah Public School offers a *Transition to School Program* of eighteen full days for children in their year before school. *Transition 2019* starts on Mondays from June 17 for students enrolling in Kindergarten 2020. Please contact the school if you would like further information on this program or an enrolment form.

Karen Smith, Relieving Principal



Lions Roar



Great to see the public recognition recently when President Ken Gordon presented special commemorative medallions to Charter Members, John Gale and Kevin Milgate. Forty years of community service is a great achievement.

Fundraising has been on Toora Lions' agenda throughout April, activities centring on catering at community events. Our Lions Club catering team leader, soon to be octogenarian Macca McKenzie, organised catering at the Gilgandra Tractor Pull and Gilgandra Show.

Members who contributed to these events volunteered numerous hours and at the same time enjoyed the fun, entertainment (aka friendly sledging) and fellowship that is the hallmark of membership of Toora Lions Club. Importantly, funds raised will be returned to our local community through projects and charitable donations.

Forthcoming activities include helping with the Landcare-sponsored community Drought Buster BBQs at Bearbong Hall on Sunday May 5 and Tooraweenah on Sunday May 19. A date to keep in mind is our Lions Club 40th Annual Changeover, Ruby theme, on Saturday June 15 at Tooraweenah Memorial Hall.

Lion Mock

'Time is life, nothing more, nothing less ...' John Boykin

Tooraweenah P A & H Association Inc

Show committee members and volunteers raised approximately \$3000 catering at the Mountain View Hotel community BBQs in April. Tooraweenah Showground is buzzing with activity. Drought Relief funding projects of about \$200k, are well underway. The Margaret Mockler Pavilion upgrade works have been completed, the new rodeo grandstand has been installed and the new shelter shed including a commercial kitchen is well underway. Other grandstands are under construction.

The AGM on April 29 re-elected Sue Armstrong as president and Kristy Gale as secretary. We have new committee members and a host of locals taking on stewards' and other roles. Planning has started for 105th Tooraweenah Show on October 19 2019.

Sue Armstrong, President



Photos above:

- Preschool Visit to Toora Public School
- Taylor McDonell



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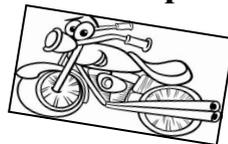
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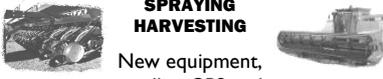
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