



Tooraweenah Anzac Day Commemoration 25 April 2022

With a sunflower wreath centre stage in a packed memorial hall in a small, safe, friendly, rural community, those at the Tooraweenah Anzac Day 2022 Service remembered the dreadful plight of the Ukrainian people, in a tribute offered by Barry Chandler.

Vicki, daughter of Sonny Sandford who passed away last year, expressed the community's condolences as a mark of respect for her father. Sonny enlisted in the AIF in 1944 and served in New Guinea in 1945-46. His slouch hat was carried to the Tooraweenah War Memorial service in the army jeep that takes part each year.

The Anzac Day committee, Chairman Barry Chandler, Malcom Webb, Lester Thurston, Douglas Robertson, Ken Sandford, John Jenkin, Michael Whale, Joanna Miller, with guest speaker, Alan Wykes, prepared a comprehensive service, not only honouring those who have served and fallen in the defence of our freedom, but also outlining the significance of some local landmarks often taken for granted.

Following the *Prologue* read by Barry Chandler, Lester Thurston reminded the audience that the first Tooraweenah War Memorial Hall was built to honour local people who served in World War I. The first hall was situated in Garling Street, the existing hall, and its predecessor which was destroyed by fire, in the current location. The Honour Roll from the Anglican Church in Tooraweenah has recently been donated to the Memorial Hall collection.

Lester pointed out that the Tooraweenah Recreation Ground was built by returned men from World War II and included the tennis courts and later the clubhouse. Tooraweenah Lions Club added to the facilities and play equipment but did not build the grounds themselves. Lester mentioned that War Workers planted trees in front of the hall and the CWA has planted Jacarandas and Silky Oaks in their association colours, in honour of those who served. Artefacts in the hall commemorate the soldier settlers of the district while named pavers will be laid around the War Memorial to remember other individuals who have served.

With music provided by Jodie Peart, Tooraweenah Public School, Preschool and other local children led the audience in *I Am Australian*. One very sweet young voice, with confidence and promise, unselfconsciously led the last chorus.

John Jenkin read the *Prayer of Thanksgiving*, Ken Sandford the *Prayer for the Queen* and Michael Whale the *Prayer for the Nation*, before Alan Wykes took the stage with his absorbing account of the military campaigns of 1942, so pivotal to final Allied victory. Alan's father, Paul, was a radio operator in Lancaster bombers during World War II and like Harry Chandler, survived many more sorties, or missions, than most airmen. Paul and Harry were to find themselves near neighbours at Tonderburine after the war.

Alan first dealt with the North Africa campaign, where the Allies controlled most of the deep-water ports and much of North Africa. For strategic reasons, the Axis powers, Italy and Germany, needed to take control in this theatre of war with Rommel's forces initially limited to Tripoli. Tobruk was captured in 1941 before fierce, prolonged fighting with thousands of Australian troops involved, saw the Allies win it back in December 1941. In 1942 Tobruk again fell to Germany, whose advance was halted near Alexandria, the "cream of the fighting men, monumental fighting men" as Alan referred to them, encountering the Axis forces in the First Battle of El Alamein and defeating them in the Second.

(continued Page 2)



Preschoolers and Miss Marie laying their wreath



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Tooraweenah Anzac Day Commemoration 25 April 2022 (continued)

With the southern advance of the Japanese into Papua New Guinea, Australian Prime Minister Curtin urged Allied commanders to release troops from the Middle East theatre to fight the new enemy. The 39th Italian Militia from Victoria, largely untrained troops and conscripts aged between 18 and 40 years, were deployed to New Guinea. At Kokoda, in the desperate battle to protect Port Moresby, these Australians encountered hardened, trained, well-equipped Japanese fighters. Fighting in retreat for six gruelling months, the Australian troops drew the Japanese away from their resources and reserves, forcing them to outrun their supply lines.

US forces were deployed to the Solomons where fighting intensified with the Battle of Guadalcanal in August 1942, an attempt to recapture the Japanese strategic port of Rabaul. With the defeat of Australia its goal, the Japanese had turned to direct bombing attacks on Darwin in February, Broome and Katherine in March, as well as Townsville in July with many civilian lives lost. Japanese mini submarine incursions into Sydney Harbour in May 1942 sank the ferry Kuttabul but otherwise failed.

Australian troops cracked the Japanese codes that revealed preparations to take Port Moresby and invade Australia. In May 1942, Japan suffered the loss of aircraft and aircraft carriers in the Battle of the Coral Sea, fought from the air against enemy shipping, mainly between the USA and the Japanese. Australian planes took part but were inferior, with Curtin appealing to American President Roosevelt for additional aircraft. Alan painted a realistic picture of the 'motley crew of pilots who ended up training in Newcastle for between three and nine hours before venturing off in Kitty Hawk aircraft to defend Port Moresby.' Two planes crashed at Ballina having not even fired their guns. Landing at Port Moresby, two more aircraft were destroyed by enemy bombing. For forty-four days they fought the Japanese in the

air. Orders to fight the Jap 'Zero' aircraft "head-on", not from above, resulted in the loss of all but three Australian aircraft and nine pilots. With the Japanese wiping out another two planes, only one remained in service, but the Battle of the Coral Sea was over and Port Moresby saved.

The USA lost many planes but managed to meet the Japs head-on at Midway and sank all Japanese carriers. With Australian troops who had been repatriated from the Middle East fighting alongside the 39th, the Japanese were pushed back to the north coast of New Guinea and Australia was saved. Alan commented that "the bravery of the men in New Guinea and the Solomons beggars belief" and spoke highly of the loyalty and courage of the native New Guineans, the *Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels*. With his reference to the terrible fall of Singapore to Japan in early 1942, where thousands of Australians and other allies died, Alan's address demonstrated thoroughly, with ease and understanding, the significance of 1942 to the outcome of World War II.

Joanna Miller, granddaughter of the late Stuart Robertson of Tara Tooraweenah, read the *Commemoration of the Fallen* before community members laid eighteen beautiful wreaths in memory of individuals and families who had served in overseas conflicts. Traditionally, the service concluded with the Last Post, the minute's silence, Reveille and the anthems. All who had contributed to the service, including Les Frewin who manages the sound system and Tooraweenah teachers and students, were thanked for their help. The school children carried the wreaths to the War Memorial in the Recreation Ground for the final solemn commemoration where Steve Connell effected the symbolic lowering of the flag with the Last Post, and its raising with Reveille.

The community congratulates the committee on an impressive and memorable Anzac Day service.



Tooraweenah Public School News with Principal, Karen Smith

Our K/1 students are very excited to read some brand new non-fiction decodable readers. We thank our P&C for donating these books to help support students in the reading journey.

STEPs to Success: Students, Through Evidence-based Practices, to Success

Did you know, that when learning sounds, students practise with real and nonsense words? This allows them to practise breaking words into their sounds without relying on knowledge of a known word. They have the skills they need when they get to an unknown word in a book. Kindergarten students have already been learning some two letter sounds (digraphs) like /ai/ in rain, /oa/ in goat and /or/ in fork

The Riverina Red Neck Car Rally 2022 came through Tooraweenah in April and caused quite a buzz with our students. They also donated a book called "Rally for Hope" written by Adam 'Butch' Conway and Alisha Davies. The book tells the story of families living in the outback, who receive support and assistance when expensive medical needs arise.

Anzac Day

We were very pleased to join with Tooraweenah Preschool to perform at this year's Tooraweenah Anzac Day service.

Tooraweenah Public School OPEN DAY Current and prospective parents are invited to our School Open Day on **Monday May 16**, (Week 4 Term 2). We welcome parents into our classrooms to look at students' work and learn more about our evidence-based teaching practices. Parents and friends are invited to join us for morning tea.

Easter Hat Parade

Students in K/1 joined with the Preschool for an Easter Hat Parade on Friday April 8 and enjoyed lunch together. Our 3-6 class was a very encouraging audience for the parade.

Young Leaders of the West Camp

School Captain Indiana Brown, Vice Captain Lexi Trickey and Prefect Lara Duff will attend the *Young Leaders of the West Camp* at the Warrumbungles from May 4 to May 6. This camp will allow them to meet other school leaders and lead a school-based project after the camp.

Grant funding for Arts development

It is planned to offer piano lessons to interested students following a successful Arts program grant application.

**For current Covid-19 guidelines please contact the school
Want to help flood-ravaged Lismore?**

Author, educator and public speaker Maggie Dent, has highlighted a small way we can help the Lismore Library after recent flooding.

*"I am a serious book lover and my heart ached when I saw the destroyed books outside the flooded Lismore Library in Northern NSW. We can all help re stock their library- just **one new book** will be such a gift! So here's a small but powerful way you can get your kids involved in helping restore communities. Purchase a new book with your family and post it to Lismore Library to help them restock, or donate funds directly to Lismore Council for their library."* - Maggie Dent .

Details from the Lismore Library: Library collections affected by the recent flood in Lismore include: Adult Fiction; Large Print; Junior & Young Adult; Children's Story Books; Children's DVDs; Jigsaws; Audio Books; Parenting Collection (non-fiction books on parenting topics); Junior Non-Fiction Books .

If you would like to donate any **new** or **near new** books from any of these categories the library would be very grateful. The address for the administration office is:

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Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2022 Tooraweenah NSW Media Release

TOM QUILTY 2022 ENDURANCE RIDE

A GROUP OF BRAVE JUNIORS TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

One of the most iconic equestrian events in the world, the Tom Quilty Gold Cup, will be held in the picturesque Warrumbungle region in central NSW from July 8-10, and a group of local junior riders is busily preparing to take part. The Tom Quilty is a national event where horse riders must cover 100 miles (160km) in one day. The prestige associated with winning this event, as well as competing, is immense.

It is the goal of all Australian endurance riders to attempt and be successful in this ride. Those who manage to complete the challenge are presented with a specially crafted belt buckle.

Each year the Tom Quilty is held in a different Australian state. In 2021 it was scheduled to be held at Tooraweenah in the foothills of the Warrumbungle Mountains which would have been exactly 30 years since the event was held in the same location in 1991. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions there was no ride last year but Tooraweenah will have its turn in July.

The event has captured the attention of a dedicated group of young competitors from the local region who are now training and trying to gain qualification to enter. Local junior rider Lara Duff has already qualified to compete on her horse Pegasus. Riders must be 12 years old to enter which Lara will achieve just ten weeks before the event.

Having successfully completed many 80km rides, Lara qualified with one 160km ride at the Tooraweenah Tom Quilty preview event held in July 2021.

"That was a tough ride, raining and cold but my horse got me through along with encouragement from my family and

friends. I can't wait to participate in the Tom Quilty 2022, it's very exciting and I'm so lucky to have it on home ground," she said.

Lara follows in the footsteps of her grandfather, mother, brothers and cousins and is thrilled to be part of such a long-standing family tradition.

Another local junior, Charlie Bonham, is no stranger to the event having successfully completed a Tom Quilty ride in 2017 at the age of 13 in Queensland. Charlie regularly trains young Arabian horses and aims to bring home a second Tom Quilty buckle.

Isabella Worner successfully completed her first 160km ride in 2021 and will team up with her mother Sara Worner to ride. Both Isabella and Sara started endurance riding in 2015 and are active members of the club. No doubt the start of another long family tradition.

Fourteen-year-old Sophia Moppett, has yet to qualify for the event. To do so she must complete a 160km ride before July. "I adore the sport and love the team that I ride along with, always willing to give a helping hand to anyone. I also love the challenge to get the horses through the vet checks sound and calm. I have learned a lot about nutrition and health for the horses. Having the Tom Quilty in Tooraweenah is a great inspiration to qualify," Sophia said.

The strength and resilience of the juniors who compete in this gruelling ride create strong and independent young people who make our community proud. The strong bond between horse and rider enables both to work together to meet the challenges of the ride.

For further information please contact Kylie Moppett:
Tel 0447481036; E kyliemoppett@gmail.com



Lara Duff on Right

Best wishes to all local riders for success in the Tom Quilty Gold Cup Endurance Ride in the Warrumbungles in July 2022.

Congratulations to all who secured the ride for Tooraweenah once again,

Arthur Butler Aviation

Open Day Brunch

Air Terminal, Tooraweenah Airstrip
9am - 12pm, Sunday 22 May 2022

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Enjoy lunch at the Mountain View Hotel

Stay at the Tooraweenah Caravan Park

Drive through the Warrumbungle National Park

Hosted by:



Arthur Butler Aviation Museum and Airport Committee



Tooraweenah Lions Club



A Message from Mark Pitts

The purpose of the Aviation Open Day is to bring awareness to the community of the historical importance Tooraweenah has in Australian aviation history; to inform the community of plans to raise funds for an aviation museum; and to identify the airport not only as the most *historical* grass aerodrome, but also as the *best*, in Australia.

This would be a great tourist attraction by land and by air. Aviation put Tooraweenah on the map once and it will put Tooraweenah back on the map again.

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Gilgandra Shire Council News

A Night Under The Gums: On April 9, @GilgandraRegion was host to *A Night Under The Gums* where locals and visitors enjoyed regional delights, pop-up bar and experienced the Castlereagh River with live music, performances and lighting displays. Thank you to everyone who attended. Complete the survey on the link below! Tell us what you thought.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9MVKSK2>

Lucas Bridge: The new \$2.5 million Lucas Bridge over the Castlereagh River was officially opened by Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton on April 27 2022.

Inland Rail | Meet The Contractor

ARTC Inland Rail will hold a networking and information session for the Narromine to Narrabri project on **Tuesday, May 10 at the Gilgandra Shire Hall from 4.00pm-7.00pm.**

This will give local businesses and individuals the chance to learn more about the Narromine to Narrabri project, its supply needs, and how to get involved with Inland Rail. We encourage local and Indigenous businesses to come and learn about supply opportunities with preferred contractors for the delivery of Inland Rail, including ACCIONA, CPB and Martinus. To register contact:

<https://inlandrail.artc.com.au/events/may/#form>

Hints from the Dog House: Oakfield Kelpies

Acquiring a new or additional dog in the family can be exciting if well thought out and rewarding into the future. Most pet additions start as pups and are easily integrated and bonded into the family routine, but can cause problems being quite needy and take a long time to mature and train.

The other option is to acquire a mature dog, which can take up to two years off the learning process. If buying a mature work dog do plenty of research into the studs with the style and type of dog you need. There's no point getting a yard dog that's pushy and impatient if you need a dog that's going to be mostly droving. The right dog will give you years of work and needs to be well thought out. Don't expect it to just go straight to work, take a couple of weeks bonding and winning it over and it will soon want to be your friend.

Spend some time with the previous owner to find how it has been trained, looked after and what working commands it responds to, and if wanting to change things, be patient. An old dog can be taught new tricks but you need to go back to basics to start. A well trained work dog won't come cheap and may cost from \$3,000 to \$10,000, but will pay for itself many times over and give you many years of work, friendship and pleasure.

Around the Traps with Lester

Tooraweenah LPO

The rainfall for the month of April to date, 29/4/22, was 68.4mm over six days. YTD total is 533.1mm over 38 days.

Tooraweenah Lions Club

Toora Lions will meet on Wednesday May 4 at the Mountain View Hotel, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Please book on 6848 1017 prior to the meeting. Current projects are: **Cleaning** out the old fire shed for storage of club items; **Catering** at the Gilgandra Show (Volunteers required); **Cooking** brunch at the information day at Tooraweenah Aerodrome on May 22; **Bike ride-a-thon** for Parkinson's disease in May in association with the Gilgandra and Gulargambone Lions Clubs; **Catering** at the Tom Quilty Endurance Ride in July 2022; **Wood chopping.**

Looking forward to a great year ahead.

Community BBQs

Thank you to the Tooraweenah Memorial Hall and Anzac Day committee for doing the community BBQs at the pub in April. The profits from their fundraising are going towards overdue repairs at our hall and the electricity bills.

Tooraweenah PA & H Association's Rodeo committee will do the May BBQs; the good cooks are shining up their spatulas and tongs for a great month ahead. Come and see what's offering for dinner each and every Saturday night in May. Proceeds will go towards Rodeo costs at the annual show.

Anzac Day

Chairman Barry Chandler and the committee wish to thank everyone who assisted with the annual Anzac Day service in the Tooraweenah Memorial Hall on April 25.

Biggest Morning Tea

This year's *Biggest Morning Tea* will be held in front of Tooraweenah Trading Co on election morning, May 21, from 10am until midday. Come along and support this annual event and its good cause. All welcome. Anyone who can assist with a plate to share, it would be appreciated greatly.

What a way to go! Visitors to Tooraweenah Caravan Park



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Tooraweenah Preschool with Marie Jacobsen, Nominated Supervisor

We had a busy end of term 1 with Easter fun and a fabulous Easter Hat parade with friends from Tooraweenah Public School. The children enjoyed doing some amazing craft and enjoyed the lovely weather while playing outside. The 'revamping' of our veggie corner has started, with the shade structure being raised, garden beds moved and items including bamboo screening, lattice and some stump seating being obtained to make this an inviting area. It will further extend our programme outside with the creation of this 'Yarning Circle'.

Over the holidays we have had some new 'garden' friends arrive, with 'Eddie Echidna' and several large and colourful bumble bees, some on posts, others hanging around the pergola area, enhancing our playground and garden. We also have a new wind chime, a teapot with cutlery hanging from it!

We are now getting ready for Mother's Day. We wish all the Mums, Nanas, Grandmas, aunts and significant ladies in our lives a very happy and wonderful Mother's Day! Thank you to Seanne Jenkin for assistance with our Mother's Day surprises.

Preschool friends participated in the 2022 Tooraweenah Anzac Day Service, combining with Tooraweenah Public School students to perform the song *I Am Australian*. We also invited the audience to join in which made it a very special performance indeed! Thank you to Tooraweenah Public School for extending the invitation to us.

After our performance we participated in the wreath laying ceremony, with Rose, Tess, Toby and Amelia laying our own

red poppy wreaths that we had made and Cooper laying a beautiful floral wreath made for us by Susie Webb. We joined in the march, following Tooraweenah Public School friends and marching behind our Tooraweenah Preschool banner carrying the wreaths to the park for the conclusion of the service. We were very eager to join in and be a part of the Anzac Day march. It was a very special day at Tooraweenah and we are very honoured to be a part of this special ceremony and community event.

Preschool also catered for the BBQ lunch held afterwards at the Mountain View Hotel. Thank you to all families who assisted in any way. Thank you to the Anzac Day Committee for giving us the opportunity to do some fundraising and congratulations on such a lovely service and day.

Staff updated their First Aid on the first day back, with trainer Wes doing a fabulous job. Staff from Tooraweenah Public School and Binnaway Preschool joined us for this training session.

We will enjoy our 'Bush Preschool' programme this term on the days where all three teachers are present: we will start this in week 4 of term when Miss Marie returns from her time off. We are having Bush Preschool twice a week so all children enrolled can participate in this fabulous nature programme.

As always, a busy and exciting term is ahead of us, full of wonder and awe, with lots of fun and interesting learning journeys and life experiences! We can't wait!




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Great News from Janelle and Scott at the Tooraweenah Caravan Park

We have had a very busy Easter and school holiday period at the caravan park. There are lots of people travelling who have not travelled for the last couple of years. It was great to see people visiting the pub, the emu farm and of course the Warrumbungles. Everyone seems to be enjoying being able to socialise again.

Easter Sunday saw the "Easter Bunny" call in to give eggs to all the guests. We were fortunate to have a vintage caravan group stay at the park over the Anzac weekend. Many of the group attended the service at the hall on Anzac Day. They all commented on how lovely it was and what a wonderful job the children from the Tooraweenah Public School and Tooraweenah Preschool did with their singing. A massive thank you to the Tooraweenah community for making all our guests feel so welcome.



Editor's Note: See the rave reviews online from visitors to the Tooraweenah Caravan Park. Fantastic!



Tooraweenah CWA News with Cath Waller



A Big Hi to All,

We have had a busy couple of months catering for the pub barbecues and the endurance ride. Income from the barbecues allowed us to send \$1250 to the CWA Disaster Fund for flood victims.

Many thanks again to those who helped. Our thanks to Geoff and Beverley Pike and those who volunteered their time or made hot dishes. Our thanks also to Toora Lions members who helped. \$600 was donated to the Lions Club to thank them for their help.

Five of our members are getting ready to go to the 100 years of CWA celebrations in Sydney in early May. On Anzac Day the CWA laid its traditional wreath at the Tooraweenah Memorial Hall, alongside many others. These were later carried to the memorial in the park by the preschool and public school children.

Sip'n'Sew continues each Wednesday from 10am to 2pm so come and enjoy a chat and a cuppa. Toora CWA Markets will be held on the third Saturday of May near the Rural Museum in Gilgandra. If you would like to learn more about CWA come along to our meetings held the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 for a 10am start.

Our thoughts are with Jill and family on the loss of Fiona, Tim's wife.

Until next time
Cath Waller, Publicity Officer



Community Bus offers a personalised service

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Returns from Gilgandra 2pm
Cost \$15

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Booking and Information on
6817 8750

Usually, the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month

Winners of Easter Colouring Comp: Eloise Jenkin, Xanthe Gale, Maverick Dennis, Brooke French. The Mountain View Hotel has raised \$520 for Kooper Fox to offer financial aid while he receives treatment in Sydney. We wish Kooper all the best..

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www.yougotthismate.com.au

It provides tips and info to help rural men reach their best possible mental health and info you need to help you be the best possible support for a loved one who is experiencing tough times.

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