



WW1 Centenary Project – Book



WW1 ANZACS of the Fleurieu Peninsula Stories from Pioneer Families

In 2013 group of volunteers from the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group (FPFHG) dedicated themselves to producing a book about the descendants of pioneer families of the Fleurieu Peninsula who participated in WW1. The aim was to identify those men and women, use records and family histories to put their stories into print and to share the product with our community at a public book launch. This was supported by a generous Grant from the Australian Government's 'Anzac Local Grants Program' having been recommended by Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP. Member for Kingston.

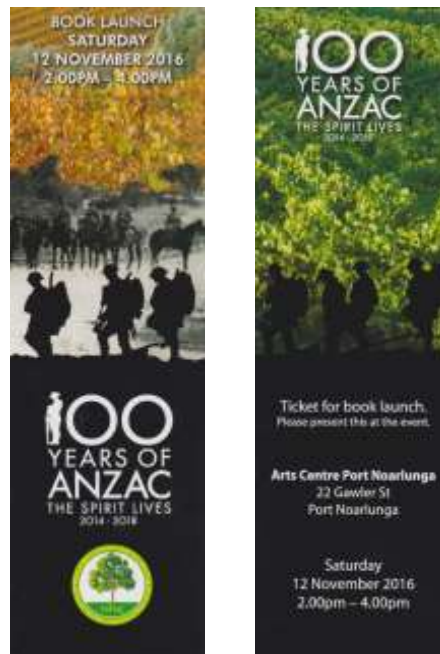
With well over 600 people from the Fleurieu Peninsula having enlisted for World War One, limits were set on those who might be included. The initial choices were service men and women from the more northern part of the Fleurieu Peninsula (where FPFHG is based), as well as our members families. We wanted to inform and involve the community, particularly hoping to locate descendants of our chosen men and women. We advertised widely and were helped by local politicians. We held community meetings, a highlight of which was a major seminar on 30 August 2014. We had great support from many sources such as: Kelly Dyer, Local History officer at the Noarlunga Library, City of Onkaparinga, staff from the Keswick Army Museum, local historians such as Richard Kleinig, Faithe Jones and Di Bellamy (vallBIZ) with publication.



ANZAC Book Committee: Front row L-R – Ros Dunstall, Joy Nieass, Judy Dowling, Lynette Gibson, Kath Fisher. Back row L-R – Jenny Chapman, Mary Ann Minor, Heather Boyce, Jan Lokan, Joan Davies and Kerry Edwards.

Photo courtesy of Kerry Edwards

Compiling all the information from a wide variety of sources was an arduous and sometimes gruelling task. We dealt with discrepancies in information and problems created by the nature and availability of sources. Frustrations were endured, obstacles were overcome and elusive discoveries were celebrated. Interviewing family members was often a highly moving experience. All our volunteers have brought their different skills, committed their time and shown great resolve to enlighten readers about the experiences of World War One enlistees from our pioneering families.



Saturday, 12 November 2016 saw the culmination of the efforts and hard work of three years when the book was launched by Hon. Amanda Risworth MP at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre. The launch was attended by invited guests, families of those pioneer families represented in the book, military personnel as well as FPFHG members.



There was a display of memorabilia around the hall prepared by officers (Lt. Col Don Harvy and Capt. Darren Smedley) from the 40 Army Cadet Unit, Noarlunga, depicting the history of the armed services in World War 1. They were supported by re-enactment soldiers and were piped in as the Banner Party. Speeches were given by Kath Fisher (Project Manager) and Sharon Green (President) as well as Capt. Darren Smedley and a poem *Remember Me* written by Florence Stopps was read by her. Three stories in the book written by FPFHG members with family connections were read by descendants Jenny Chapman, Eileen White and June Hudson.



Additional stories were presented by members of the 40 Army Cadet Unit, Noarlunga who dressed in the uniforms their soldiers would have worn at the time. Lt. Col Don Harvy recited the Ode after a minute silence and the bugler played the Last Post.

The event was organised and supported by very many members of the FPFHG and responses from those who attended were very encouraging. Copies of the book were given to all participants, supporting families, libraries and all relevant community groups. All copies were distributed and interest was far greater than expected.

Five copies are available for borrowing from our club resource room and all public and school libraries in the Fleurieu Peninsula as well as the State and National libraries.