

ANZAC REMEMBRANCE



History Lesson:

Howie Park and its beginnings.

Supplied by the Morrinsville Heritage Centre.

Mr George Howie was born in Wanganui in 1855 and in December 1910 purchased 86 acres in the eastern part of Morrinsville, this included his residence at 382 Thames Street, 'Lochgoin' which became the Town and Country Club in January 1951. He was involved in many organisations in Morrinsville, Businesses, Sports clubs and Societies and also held the office of Mayor from 1923-1925.



Howie Park Gates in the 1930's

His land included a sloped section above Waverley Ave where children played. Plans for a war memorial on this land started in 1920 and a Peace Memorial Committee were given approval from the public to erect a memorial to casualties of World War One; it was a 35ft high cenotaph on a three-stage stepped base, made

of Coromandel Granite at a cost of £1100.

On the 30th of April, 1922 the cenotaph was unveiled by the Governor General Viscount Jellicoe and the park was planted by David Coghill.

Howie Park was given to the Borough of Morrinsville by G. Howie on the

18th of November 1922, designated as a public park.

In the 1920's a pine tree from "Lone Pine" in Gallipoli was planted to the east of the cenotaph. After about 70 years it was felled due to decay, a plaque is still located at that spot.

November 11th 1993, a kauri tree was planted by Morrinsville RSA in the same area as the pine tree, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of World War One.

George Howie also presented the entrance gates for the park in 1925 that read

"Presented by George Howie to the citizens of Morrinsville".

In 1924, three concrete ponds were built making it a perfect venue for wedding photos.

Mr George Howie died on the 29th May 1935 in his 80th year.

During more recent years the cenotaph surrounds have been revamped to cater for the large attendance at ANZAC Day Civic Services and ponds and surroundings upgraded to improve maintenance.

Military History

100 Years ago we became a Nation – New Zealand

Supplied by Hugh Vercoe Maj (rtd) RNZA

As we come together on ANZAC day this year we reflect and remember our past military history. It started in 1899. In another British colony, South Africa, the local Boers had dared to question the right of "mother England" to rule over her subjects. A force was being readied to sail to South Africa and quell the uprising. Young men from the colonies were invited to join and 6,500 young men from New Zealand leapt at the chance to go and fight. They left as Englishmen fighting under the English flag. For 3 years it was a wonderful adventure and although 69 men from these shores lost their lives, they had killed over 7,000 Boers. The young men returning home were seen as heroes to be envied.


In 1914 the drums of war started beating again in Europe. On 5 August 1914 the NZ Herald reported "the joyous news that England had

declared war on behalf of her colony, New Zealand". Over 8,500 young men immediately signed up to go and fight and initially they went to Egypt to train with the Australians.

At this stage Turkey entered the war and this caused a strategic threat as Turkey controlled the straights of the Dardenells where the British navy needed access from the Mediterranean.

A force under command of Gen Sir Ian Hamilton, as allied commander, was established to invade the peninsular of Gallipoli from the Turks. The invasion plan was simple and our NZ troops together with the Australians were to follow the initial attack acting as reserve. This was the first time the order of battle showed the title ANZAC. On 25 April 1915 thousands of young men stormed the beaches on Gallipoli and the battle commenced. For eight long months our young men fought and died. During that time our young men came together united as one and we became a Nation- New Zealanders fighting for New Zealand.

Our young men and women have fought and died for New Zealand in many campaigns over the last 100 years and now especially on the anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, We Will Remember Them.



ANZAC DAY

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2015

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

<p>5:30AM</p> <p>5:45AM</p> <p>6:00AM</p> <p>10:30AM</p> <p>1PM -4pm</p> <p>5PM</p>	<p>CLUB OPENS</p> <p>ASSEMBLE FOR DAWN PARADE</p> <p>DAWN PARADE & BREAKFAST</p> <p>CIVIC SERVICE & LUNCH</p> <p>ENTERTAINMENT by Tim Armstrong</p> <p>BEAT RETREAT & SUNSET</p> <p>held at the cenotaph</p> <p>RESTAURANT OPEN FOR NORMAL TRADING AT 5PM</p> <p style="color: red;">COURTESY VANS AVAILABLE ALL DAY</p>
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