
ANZAC DAY

25 APRIL 2023

REMEMBERING AND COMMEMORATING
LOCAL SERVICE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE
SERVED OUR COUNTRY



CESSNOCK'S HEROIC POLICEMAN

Before the outbreak of World War I Cessnock-born Corporal Gordon Charles Farnham had worked at Aberdare Colliery and blacksmith before spending a short time in New Zealand. When he returned to Australia he joined the NSW Police Force and was stationed at Broken Hill.

Like many young men, the call of duty was strong and Gordon, then aged 26, enlisted on 24 August, 1914 with the 3rd Field Ambulance Corps. Corporal Farnham was part of the Gallipoli landing on 25 April, 1915 and later awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for "showing the greatest zeal and disregard for danger during the landing at Gaba Tepe". It was during the historic landing the official reports recall that for 10 hours under heavy fire "he attended the wounded continuously and made a fine exhibition of coolness and devotion to duty".

Corporal Farnham was in the trenches from April until the end of August 1915. He then spent several months as part of the military police patrol duty guarding prisoners, before requesting a return to his unit. Corporal Farnham established himself as a hardworker and rose through the ranks. He would later be transferred to 3rd Light Trench Mortar Battery.

In October 1918 he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. After his return home to Australia in December 1918 Corporal Farnham joined the committee of the Returned Soldiers' League. He rejoined the Wagga Wagga Police before resigning in 1920 to become licensee of the Club House Hotel in Wagga Wagga. Corporal Farnham died of food poisoning on 28 January, 1921.

WEST WALLSEND'S YOUNG MINER

West Wallsend miner, Private Robert Convery heard the call for adventure and to serve his country like many men of the local area, he answered the call to duty and enlisted on 10 January, 1916, he was 23 years old.

Private Convery left the shores of Australia aboard the HMAT *Benalla* departing from Sydney on 1 May, 1916 before reaching Plymouth, England on 9 July, 1916 as part of the 35th Infantry Battalion. The battalion saw service on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

On 21 November, 1916 Private Convery proceeded to France to fight. Six months later he was killed in action on 7 June, 1917.

Due to communication errors Private Convery's mother Annie of Holmesville had read in the newspaper that her son was wounded prior to her officially being notified of his death so there was confusion over whether he had been killed or was wounded.

Further adding to her grief was that the location that it was reported Private Convery was buried was also later found to be incorrect and no remains were found following investigation by the Imperial War Graves Commission.



Above: Memorial to members of 35th Battalion including Private Convery who fell in the Battle of Messines in June, 1917.

LOCAL ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2023

ABERMAIN

8:30am - March from the corner of Bathurst Street and Cessnock Road to the Jeffries Park Cenotaph for the Service.

BRANXTON

5:30am - Dawn Service at the Branxton Rotunda, John Rose Avenue, Branxton.
11:30am - Town March form up 11:15am in front of old Branxton Inn and Paper shop.
11:45am - Main Service Branxton Rotunda for the Day Memorial Service.

BROKE

5:30am - Dawn Service at Broke War Memorial, Broke Street, Broke.
10:00am - Morning Service at Broke War Memorial.

BRUNKERVILLE

3:00pm - Uniting Church in Memorial Garden.

BULGA

10:45am for **11:00am** Service gather at Bulga Recreation Ground, The Inlet Road, Bulga.

CAMERON PARK

Closest Service is at West Wallsend.

CESSNOCK

5:30am - Dawn Service at the Cessnock Cenotaph which is located in the grounds of Cessnock TAFE, North Avenue, Cessnock.
9:00am - Morning Service at Veteran's Park, Aberdare Road, Aberdare.
11:00am - March from Vincent St Kitchen + Bar, along Vincent Street to the Cenotaph for the Service at **11:40am** in the TAFE grounds.

EDGEWORTH

Closest Service is at West Wallsend.

GRETA

5:30am - Dawn Service at Greta War Memorial Cenotaph, New England Highway, Greta.
9:30am - March from the corner of Nelson Street and New England Highway to the Cenotaph for the Service.
10:00am - Main Service commences.

HOLMESVILLE

Closest Service is at West Wallsend.

KEARSLEY

5:15am - March from Kearsley Tennis Court to the Cenotaph at Kearsley Community Hall, Allandale Street, Kearsley.
5:30am - Service at the Cenotaph. BBQ breakfast will follow within the grounds of the area of remembrance.

KURRI KURRI

5:00am - Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Col Brown Rotary Park, corner of Lang and Hampden Streets, Kurri Kurri.
9:45am - March from Mitre 10 to the Cenotaph.
10:00am - Service at the Cenotaph.

NEATH

From 11:30am - Lighting of the Miner's Lamp at Neath Hotel, Cessnock Road, Neath.

MILLFIELD

5:15am - Gather at St Luke's Anglican Church, Wollombi Road, Millfield and march to Millfield Public School for the Service.

PAXTON

5:25am - Gather at the corner of McDonald and Anderson Avenues, Paxton and march to Paxton Public School for the Service.

POKOLBIN

7:00am - Service at memorial gates 126 McDonalds Road, Pokolbin.

PUTTY

10:00am - Service at Putty Community Hall, Putty Valley Road, Putty.

WEST WALLSEND

9:40am - March commences from corner of Withers and Carrington Streets, West Wallsend.
10:00am - Service at West Wallsend Soldiers' Memorial Park, corner of Carrington and Hyndes Streets, West Wallsend.

WOLLOMBI

5:45am - Service at Wollombi Anzac Reserve, corner of Wollombi and Narone Creek Roads, Wollombi. Followed by a complimentary breakfast provided by Wollombi Tavern.

**Please note times may be subject to change.*