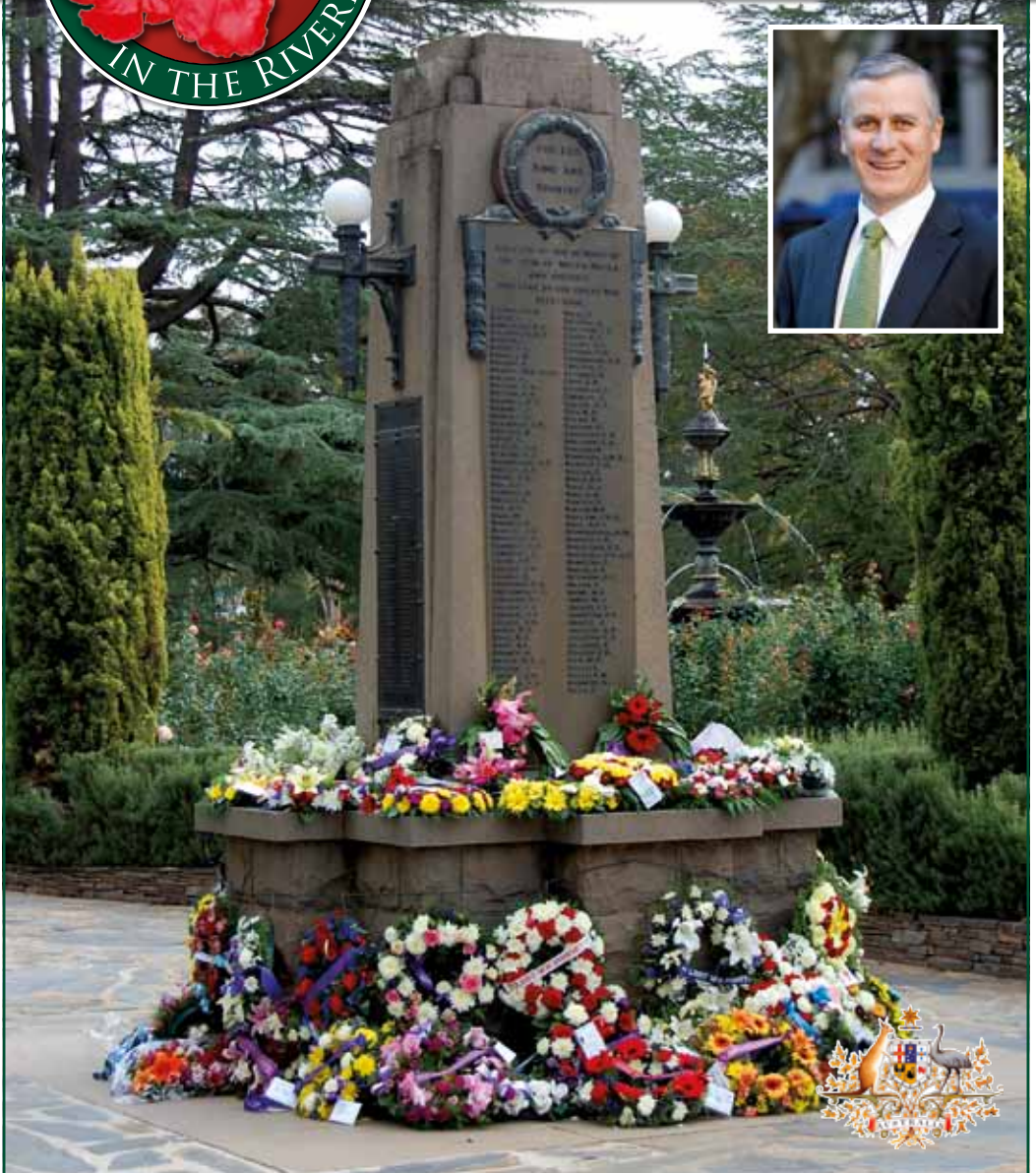


Commemorative booklet proudly presented by
Michael McCormack MP
Federal Member for Riverina



25TH APRIL 2011





DISTRICT PROUD OF MILITARY HERITAGE



THE commitment by the men and women of Wagga Wagga and district to Australia's past and present wartime and peacetime military efforts is as dedicated as any region in the land.

to the Western Front where eventually The Great War was won and stability restored, for two decades at least, to a troubled Europe.

Long lists of names chiselled into local war memorials recording the fallen and also those who enlisted and were fortunately able to make it home again, show the strength of the response by the region when the call to duty was made.

Australia paid a heavy price for its involvement in the war of 1914-18 and many fine men from this corner of the world never returned to loved ones, leaving behind many young widows, heartbroken children, distraught families and sorrowful communities to cope with the loss.

The fact Wagga Wagga is the home of the soldier, with every Army recruit going through Blamey Barracks at Kapooka and with Forest Hill being an important training and strategic base for both the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy, underline the city's ongoing support of the country's armed forces.

But through their supreme sacrifice, the ANZAC legend was born and the flame burns as brightly now as it did in 1915 when news of the ill-fated Gallipoli mission first filtered through.

The selfless service then and now is what is often referred to as the spirit of ANZAC and is commemorated on 25 April each year.

That is why we stand in silent tribute as ex-servicemen and women march on our most important national day. That is why we honour their courage. That is why we must and will never forget.

This is the anniversary of the original landings at Gallipoli when brave troops of the Australian Imperial Force rushed ashore at the start of what would be a drawn-out, deadly and ultimately unsuccessful campaign.

Michael McCormack

MICHAEL McCORMACK MP
Federal Member for Riverina

Although the ANZACS did not triumph on the Turkish peninsula, many went on

THE ODE *"For the Fallen" (1914) English poet Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)*

**THEY shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the Sun and in the morning we will remember them.**

THE LAST POST



IN military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call which signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services such as ANZAC Day and Armistice Day.

In major ceremonies, the Last Post is normally followed by *Rouse* except at the dawn service when *Reveille* is played. Historically, *Reveille* woke the soldier at dawn.

Kapooka bugler Corporal David Matthews will perform at Villers-Bretonneux on ANZAC Day.

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NAMES TO LIVE ON FOREVER

THE Cenotaph in Wagga Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens, which features on the cover, cost £800 and was unveiled by Brigadier-General Thomas Blamey on 17 September 1922.

Born at Lake Albert, Blamey served as a staff officer at Gallipoli and on the Western Front in World War I and later was Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, in WWII.

The centrepiece for ANZAC and Armistice Day commemorations contains the names of the 392 district Veterans who died in the World Wars and in Vietnam.

The War Memorial Arch, shown above in pictures from yesteryear and today, was erected for £1608 plus the cost of inscribing the more than 1000 Great War local enlistees.

It was officially opened by Major-General C F Cox (better known to his troops as "Fighting Charlie") on ANZAC Day 1927.

The two structures stand as superb monuments to those who did not die in vain.



CITY'S CLOSE TIES WITH BATTLESHIPS



THERE are proud and lasting links uniting Wagga Wagga and the first two of the five Royal Australian Navy ships named HMAS *Sydney*.

A tall flagpole in the Victory Memorial Gardens pictured below bears a battle scar of a famous tussle between the original *Sydney* and the German Cruiser *Emden* – one of the first actions of The Great War.



In the same park, on the historic Cenotaph as well as the enlistment rolls on the wall encircling the eternal flame behind the Memorial Arch, the name of one of Wagga Wagga's bravest can be found.

Keith Andrew Joseph Bowes was aboard *Sydney II* when it was involved in a mutually destructive engagement with the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran* and was lost with its 645 crew in World War II.

Just 19 years of age, Stoker Bowes was born in Wagga Wagga on 9 June 1922.

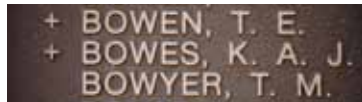
He enlisted for service at Tumblong on 1 August 1939, a month to the day before Germany invaded Poland to begin a global conflict which would cost as many as 70 million lives by the time a truce was finally called in 1945.



(Above) *TRAGIC LOSS: HMAS Sydney II and its entire crew were lost in 1941.*

(Left) *SYDNEY CREW: Aboard the ill-fated ship.*

(Below) *REMEMBERED: Keith Bowes, gone but not forgotten.*



On 19 November 1941 a merchant ship was sighted in the Indian Ocean about 200 kilometres off the West Australian coast. Challenged by *Sydney*, the other ship identified itself as the Dutch *Straat Malaka* when, in fact, it was *Kormoran*, armed to the teeth with concealed artillery and torpedoes.

Sydney closed to within 1000 metres and the German raider opened fire, sending *Sydney* and all on board to the bottom of the sea.

Kormoran was also badly damaged in the battle and had to be scuttled, losing 82 crew with 317 others subsequently captured.

Of all the RAN officers and sailors who died in WWII, a third of them went down with *Sydney*.

Sydney's wreck was found on 17 March 2008, five days after a team led by American shipwreck hunter David Mearns located the remains of *Kormoran*.

Thus ended one of Australia's enduring mysteries and brought closure for those who still grieved and pondered about the loss of so many noble young men including Wagga Wagga teenager Keith Bowes – a true hero.

Wagga Wagga-born Clifford Leslie James Curtis, a 22-year-old Leading Wireman who signed on at Dandenong, Victoria, also perished.



DENTED BUT CERTAINLY NOT DOWN

WAGGA Wagga is fortunate to have a relic of the first single ship action fought by our Navy.

The Battle of Cocos took place on 9 November 1914 during WWI off the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the north-east Indian Ocean.

German light cruiser SMS *Emden* attacked the British cable station on Direction Island and was engaged several hours later by the original HMAS *Sydney*, an Australian light cruiser.

Sydney I won a fierce fight lasting an hour and 40 minutes, losing eight men, but destroying *Emden* (which had 131 killed) and capturing the enemy ship's survivors.

The pole which stands straight and proud in the Victory Memorial Gardens was erected on 11 November, Remembrance Day, 1931, 3½ years after the first *Sydney* was decommissioned.



TELLING TALES: A marker on the pole details its history.



WAGGA'S MAGNIFICENT MARCH

THE GREAT WAR had lasted nearly four years and Australian casualties were increasing at a dreadful rate when Wagga Wagga staged one of its most patriotic days of all time.

It was the afternoon of Saturday, 6 July 1918 and amid much colour and fanfare a March to Freedom was held to recruit soldiers for the Australian Imperial Force.

The freedom marchers had started their recruitment drive at Albury and by the time they arrived in Sydney had visited 12 towns.

They came to Wagga Wagga by train from Henty and comprised 75 officers, non-commissioned officers and men with full equipment.

After a formal welcome by Mayor Edgar Collins, the parade began with four mounted police out front followed by the Wagga Wagga Brass Band led by Drum Major Bill Bentley and accompanied by Bandmaster Frederick Philpott.

The column of marchers came next then the militia under Major Silvio Palazzi who had fought in the Boer War of 1899-1902 alongside his brother Joseph who was killed in action, aged just 22.

About 70 senior cadets were next in line and behind them the Wagga Wagga Citizens' Concert Band under bandmaster Ernie Homann and then trooped district schoolchildren, hundreds of them, carrying bannerettes representing the Australian flag and the Union Jack.

The women of the Wagga Wagga Soldiers' Comforts Fund, The Salvation Army, members of the Wagga Wagga Fire Brigade mounted on their motor engine and a number of vehicles of all descriptions made up the impressive parade.

"Along the whole line of the march from the railway station to Hampden Bridge, flags and bannerettes were flying from almost every building on both sides of the thoroughfare traversed, giving the town a gala day appearance," trumpeted The Daily Advertiser newspaper the next day.

Several thousand people thronged to witness the event.

"It takes a man to fight," boomed Lieutenant Burns, the officer commanding the March to Freedom column, when it came time for speeches.

He told the large and enthusiastic gathering he wanted to see how many eligible men had *"the heart to join in the great game - the fight for freedom and liberty"*.

Corporal McNamara, who had recovered after being badly wounded in action, told the crowd the name of ANZAC was a title of fame and glory.

"Grip a rifle and fall in among the men in the March to

Freedom," he urged.

Warrant Officer Judge also spoke forthrightly: *"At such a time as the present there was only one way to be a man, only one way to justify their manhood and to still the small voice of conscience and that was to get into khaki uniform."*

The stirring words had their effect with 19 volunteering.

Two days later, at a concert in Junee, an appeal went out to the men of that town with 11 recruits being accepted.

Riverina's own Victoria Cross recipient, Gunbar-born Private William Jackson, addressed both the Wagga Wagga and Junee gatherings.

Pte Jackson must have been an inspiration. He was missing his right arm as a result of the actions which won him his VC on the night of 25-26 June 1916 near Armentières, France.

At 19 he was (and still is) Australia's youngest VC winner, our first on the Western Front and the first from New South Wales to return home from the horrors of World War I.

"Grip a rifle and fall in among the men in the March to Freedom."

AUSTRALIANS! IT IS NOT STRANGERS THAT CALL YOU NOW
YOUR KINDRED ARE CALLING.

MARCH TO FREEDOM.

TO-DAY (SATURDAY)

RECRUITING DEMONSTRATION AND APPEAL.

GRAND PROCESSION, Railway Station to Hampden Bridge,
2 p.m.

FREE PICTURE SHOW AND CONCERT,
STRAND THEATRE, 8 p.m.
INSPIRING MUSIC.

All Citizens and sympathisers with our Boys at the Front are cordially invited to assist with CONTRIBUTIONS towards cost of such demonstrations and to add to its importance by their presence at all stages.

Refreshment vendors (in uniform if possible, or wearing badges), Citizens Societies, Working Clubs and Rifle Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girls of Peace and District Societies, and all Public and Patriotic Societies, are especially invited to JOIN IN THE PROCESSION and aid a vigorous effort to raise contributions for the rapidly dwindling, but heroic, battalions.

All Public Halls and others intending to take part in the ProceSSION are requested to Assemble at the Railway Station at 2 p.m. sharp on SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Business people and others, particularly along the line of MARCH of the ProceSSION, are especially invited to mark the occasion by displaying their ProceSSION Favours and Badges with Flags, Bunting and Approve-ment.

CONTRIBUTIONS, which are still urgently required, will be received by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. JOHN BROWN), or the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. J. HARRIS) and Mr. A. J. HARRIS.

By Authority, HENRY OLIVER BEATH,
Chairman Advertising Sub-Committee.



PATRIOTIC PARADE (above): One of Wagga Wagga's grandest days as the March to Freedom sets off from the Railway Station along Baylis Street. The advertisement is from The Daily Advertiser promoting the big day. The other rare image (opposite page) shows the procession as it passes J.J. McGrath's Saddlery in Fitzmaurice Street.



COOLAMON HERO'S SUPREME SACRIFICE

HIS face was one of youthful resolve... bright eyes looking ahead with a sense of purpose and spirit... not knowing what lay ahead but ready to do his best for God, King and Country.

William Kelly was among the first to enlist with the Australian Imperial Force for The Great War, signing up at Liverpool on 16 December 1914 and sailing out with the 3rd and 4th Battalions on 11 February 1915.

His low service number (1577) shows Private Kelly's eagerness, for eventually as many as 421,809 Australians would join the military, with 331,781 serving overseas.

Sent to Gallipoli, Private Kelly – known as Bill to his mates – did his family, community, comrades and nation proud with his heroism but, sadly, lost his life in order so that others might live.

The Battle of Lone Pine, from 6-10 August 1915, was ferociously fought, with the AIF suffering 2200 casualties.

Included in the high toll was Pte Kelly, just 21 years old, who died of wounds aboard the hospital ship *Delta* and was buried at sea.

Poor Bill had suffered for four days, having sustained serious wounds to his face and both hands, necessitating the amputation of his right hand.

His remarkable courage was acknowledged by the posthumous awarding of a Distinguished Conduct Medal for his 7 August actions.



"While the wounded were being removed from the trench the enemy commenced a severe attack by bomb throwers," according to the extract from the *London Gazette* relating to his DCM.

"Private Kelly, with great pluck, met it by collecting and throwing back the enemy's unexploded bombs, until one burst in his hand, inflicting severe injuries."

"His gallantry and self-sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of many of the wounded."

Bill Kelly's medal was sent to Coolamon and awarded to his father, Patrick, at a public gathering.

He was the first from the district to die but would not be the last. Before the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918 another 46 local men – the bravest of the brave – would be added to the list of the fallen.



MONUMENT: Rear view of Ganmain's Memorial Gate.

GANMAIN'S SAD LOSS AT GALLIPOLI

LONE Pine claimed the life of another from the region when Frederick William Erskine of Ganmain paid the supreme sacrifice.

Remembered on the town's memorial arch, his demise was a particularly sad one.

The 34-year-old farmhand, originally from South Africa, was hit in the chest by a bomb during a charge on the night of 6 August 1915 and died in the arms of a mate who was also severely injured.

The soldier who nursed Fred during his final moments also succumbed the next night.

After an extensive search by the Base Records office for Pte Erskine's next-of-kin, his only sister Norah Cullen of Wagga Wagga was finally located and his medals forwarded to her in October 1922.

Ganmain mourned the loss of many good men killed in the two world wars and took years to recover.



(Top right) BRAVE: War-time portrait of Bill Kelly with his posthumously-awarded Distinguished Cross Medal drawn in.

(Right) MEMORIAL: Coolamon's Cenotaph which honours the district's finest.

(Above) LEST WE FORGET: Bill Kelly's name on the honour roll at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



2011 ANZAC DAY SERVICE TIMES AND VENUES

WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT:

COOLAMON (Includes Marrar)

6am Dawn Service at Cenotaph in Cowabbie Street.

10.45am Servicemen and women and all groups marching line up outside RSL Memorial Museum in Loughnan Street for Main Service.

FOREST HILL

6am Dawn Service at Royal Australian Air Force main gate.

GANMAIN (Includes Matong)

6am Dawn Service at Memorial Gate in Waterview Street.

10.30am March starts at corner of Ford and Waterview Streets and proceeds to Memorial Gate.

11am Main service.

KAPOOKA

5.30am Dawn Service at Army Recruit Training Centre. All members of the public need to be in the Base no later than 5.20am.

TARCUITA

10am Service at Memorial Hall in Sydney Street.

URANQUINTY

9am Service at Cenotaph in Morgan Street.

WAGGA WAGGA

(Includes Collingullie, Currawarna, Euberta, Mangoplah, San Isidore)

5.45am Dawn Service arranged by Legacy at the Cenotaph in the Victory Memorial Gardens, Baylis Street.

6.30am Pilgrimage to Wagga Wagga War Cemetery in Kooringal Road. Speeches by Kooringal High School Captains Josh Larwood and Isabel Mulrooney.

PLEASE NOTE: All times and venues have been supplied in good faith by various RSL Sub-Branch officials and were correct at the time of publication. Every care has been taken to ensure as many services as possible have been included. For verification of other services please contact your local RSL Sub-Branch.

10.30am Baylis Street March begins.

11am Wreath Laying, Victory Memorial Gardens Cenotaph. The Salute will be taken by Senior Naval Officer, Lieutenant Commander Linton Lee.

CAPITAL CITY SERVICES: CANBERRA

5.30am Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial (suggested arrival from 4.30am onwards).

6.30am The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commemorative Ceremony at the Aboriginal Memorial Plaque on the side of Mount Ainslie.

10.15am National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (suggested arrival 9.45am).

SYDNEY

4.15am Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

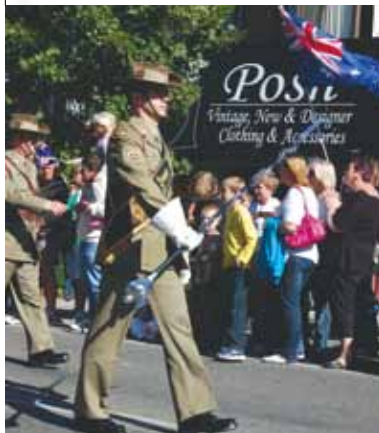
8.30am Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

9am ANZAC Day March starting at Martin Place/George Street/Bathurst Street/Hyde Park.

12.30pm Commemorative Service at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park South.

1pm Aboriginal ANZAC Day March in Redfern.

5pm Sunset Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.



(Above right) LEADING THE WAY: Warrant Officer Class 2 Ray Hingston, mace in hand, stepping in style in his role as Drum Major out front of the Australian Army Band Kapooka in last year's ANZAC Day parade at Wagga Wagga.



BISCUITS TO KEEP 'EM SOLDIERING ON

THE famous ANZAC Biscuit came about, so legend goes, because mothers, wives and girlfriends feared their men overseas were not getting sufficient nutritional value.

Food supplies had to be shipped to Great War battlefronts and naval transportation was slow, so a recipe was formulated for a biscuit which would last the distance and pass the taste test.

Ingredients

- 1 cup each of plain flour, sugar, rolled oats and coconut.
- 115 grams (4 oz) butter.
- 1 tablespoon treacle (golden syrup).
- 2 tablespoons boiling water (add a little more water if mixture is too dry).
- 1 teaspoon bi-carbonate soda.

Method

1. Grease biscuit tray and pre-heat oven to 180°C.
2. Combine dry ingredients.
3. Melt together butter and golden syrup. Combine water and bi-carbonate soda – add to butter mix.
4. Mix butter mixture and dry ingredients.
5. Drop teaspoons of mixture onto tray allowing room for spreading.

Bake for 10-15 minutes or until golden. Allow to cool on tray for a few minutes before transferring to cooling racks.

*Makes about 35 biscuits.

Recipe provided by Bob Lawson, an ANZAC at Gallipoli. Source: Australian War Memorial www.awm.gov.au



SCHOOLCHILDREN'S THOUGHTS

RIVERINA primary and secondary school students were invited to enter a writing competition "What ANZAC Day in the Riverina means to me."

Hundreds of entries were received with the ones judged most outstanding reprinted on this page and their authors receiving ANZAC-related book prizes.

All who submitted an entry will receive a commemorative certificate.

A CHILD LIKE ME

A child like me has lost their mother or father in the war.

Courage is what it would take to keep living without my family.

Holidays would never be the same, Christmas, birthdays, Easter.

I would feel heartbroken if my Mum or Dad hadn't come back from war.

Laying a wreath to remember those who fought for our freedom.

Devastated is the way I would feel if a family member passed away.

Living a peaceful life would not be possible without the soldiers.

I think of the people shooting guns to save our country.

Kids think of every soldier who died in WWI and WWII.

Everyone in the battlefields is scared and fears dying.

My thoughts at the sound of the bugle played at ANZAC Day services are of all the soldiers dying and fighting for me.

Every country for themselves; team versus team in a journey of life and death.

Catherine Crebbin-Nugent, 9, Year 5, Tolland Public School



WINNER: Grace Carmichael, 13, Year 9, Coolamon Central School

CROWDS on the docks, waved and cheered. A tear in my grandmother's eye. Thrill of adventure ran in their spine. War, they were headed.

Brass buttons and leather boots, Bellowing generals commanded.

THE ANZACs, OUR ANZACs

Nervous troops, harder they trained, No man ever gave up.

In roaring trenches, they fought to survive, Bravely pushing on. They fought together! Whatever the cost, Ploughing through as one.

Sorrowful men sailing homeward. But some, they never returned. Men and women gave their life. The greatest sacrifice.

But what does it mean to me today, With blessings so great in number? Well many of us would not be here, If not for their courage and spirit.

My great Grandpa fought as a cook in the Army, My uncle fought on the field.

As did many more sacrifice the life That easily could have been theirs.

The Riverina is a wonderful place, So far from any war. It's hard to imagine I'm across the sea, Where Aussies give up much more.

So when I march on ANZAC Day, I am proud to march for those Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The ANZACs, our ANZACs.



BOOK PRIZE: Riverina MP Michael McCormack presents the primary age winner Catherine Crebbin-Nugent, 9, with the book Simpson and his Donkey as Tolland Public School pupils (from left) Teigan Crebbin-Nugent, 11, Jayde Crocker, 10, Milika Tuinakaavvadra, 10, Toby Hoskins, 11, Kaitlyn McRae, 11, Libby Bevan, 11, and Jazmin Cotter, 9, proudly hold their certificates, and Acting Principal Helen Nixon looks on.