

**In this Edition:****Commemorative**

**Services for
the Battle of Fromelles**

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**Vale Marie Paule
Demassiet**

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Vale: Julie Werner

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An Update on our

Webpage and

Soldiers' Stories

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Government House

Open Day

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This month saw the commemoration of the 106th Anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles. We bring you some accounts of the services in Sydney, Ipswich, Melbourne, and Fromelles.

But July is also a month of reporting on the loss of two significant friends of the soldiers of Fromelles, of Madame Marie-Paule Demassiet in Fromelles, and of Julie Werner, of Sydney, and we provide an account of their passing for you as well.

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COMMEMORATIONS OF THE 106th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES

ANZAC MEMORIAL SYDNEY: from the FFFAIF Facebook page.



Families and Friends of the First AIF oversaw this event.

Representatives of the French, British, Belgian, and New Zealand diplomatic corps laid wreaths in honour of the men of the 5th Australian Division AIF, accompanied by representatives of the New South Wales Parliament.

The commemoration began with a procession from the Archibald Fountain to the steps of the Anzac Memorial. Remarks followed in the memorial auditorium.

Wreaths were laid afterwards in the Hall of Memory.

The Epilogue for the service was delivered by Geoffrey Benn, the President of the Fromelles Association of Australia. Geoffrey is a Great Nephew of A/ Sgt William Polding Ryan who fought with the 31st Battalion in the Battle of Fromelles, was buried by the Germans and now has a named headstone at

Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery at Fromelles. The Epilogue was as follows:-

Good morning Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who have been involved in organising today's Commemoration. I would also like to thank those who have participated in our Order of Service for giving our Commemoration meaning. I would also like to thank all of the Dignitaries, representatives of Ex-Service and Descendants' organisations and particularly descendants and their friends who have been able to partici-



pate in the Commemorative Procession and Commemoration. Thank you.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the presence of our defence personnel as we remember the citizen soldiers who heard the call and took on responsibilities with consequences they did not fully understand and gave up their vocations to do what they saw as their duty. We thank those citizen soldiers and we thank the current professional soldiers both full-time and part-time for their preparedness for taking on the unforeseen risks and challenges in our technological and dynamic world. Thank you.

In the 1966 parade from the Archibald Fountain to this Anzac Memorial on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, the Veterans who were then still with us, asked the Trustees of the Memorial to always remember the service and sacrifice of their 5th Division comrades who died during the Great War and others who had died since then. The Trustees have honoured that request each year as we do today.

Approximately 308,000 men of the AIF served in a theatre of war.

We know that during WW1, 61,720 soldiers were killed, and 137,013 were wounded. As many as 208,000 were hospitalised during their service. The men of the AIF were decimated.

But what we also know is that in the 10 years following the end of WW1, another 60,000 of those who returned, also died.

We can only speculate on how many suffered from long term disabilities, or became alcoholics, or drug dependents, or whose families suffered. Many ended their lives only to be buried in unmarked graves.

Fromelles' place in Australia's history is that it was the first location on the Western Front in France where Australian soldiers fought the opposing German forces.

More soldiers died in the Battle in a single 24 hour period, than any other.

I have tallied the numbers. Those who died, and those who eventually died from their wounds inflicted in that Battle total over 2700.

But these blunt figures do not tell the family details which relate to Fromelles.

In honouring those who died during the Great War and since, I would today like to provide you with some information as to just why the commemoration of the Battle of Fromelles is so unique.

For example, there were Fathers and Sons who fought at Fromelles. One such family was that of ALEXANDER McLEAN (Snr.) and his sons ALEXANDER McLEAN and VICTOR McLEAN, 60th Battalion.

Both sons are commemorated at VC Corner Memorial at Fromelles. Their father was serving in the same battalion and was initially reported missing in action on 19 July 1916 but he was later reported safe.

But there were at least 16 other sets of brothers who fought at Fromelles:-

JOHN CAREY and TIMOTHY CAREY.

For those lost so far from home.

ALBERT BROMLEY, and SIDNEY BROMLEY.
HAROLD CLEMENTS, and VIVIAN CLEMENTS.
CHARLES FRANKLIN, and HERBERT FRANKLIN.

ALEXANDER FRASER, and RODERICK FRASER.
ERNEST HENDERSON, and LESLIE HENDERSON.

GUSTAVE HOSIE, and RUSSELL HOSIE.

ALFRED MITCHELL, and SYDNEY MITCHELL.

PATRICK McMANUS, and SAMUEL McMANUS.

ROBERT MILLER, and WILLIAM MILLER.

COLIN PERKINS, and ERIC PERKINS.

ALFRED PHILLIPS, and EDWIN PHILLIPS.

GEORGE SHEPHARD, and THOMAS SHEPHARD.

HARRY TURNER, and ARTHUR TURNER.

GEORGE SHEPHARD, and THOMAS SHEPHARD.

ARCHIBALD CHOAT, RAYMOND CHOAT, and WESLEY CHOAT.

And

ERIC WILSON, and SAMUEL WILSON, 53rd Battalion of whom we have heard so much from Jim Munday (pictured above) earlier today.

The Wilson brothers' experience was a tragedy, repeated in many homes across the country, and at a higher rate in Australia than in other countries.

250 remained un-located for 94 years until their mass grave was discovered at Pheasant Wood in 2007. Unusually, that site had been unproductive for farming and had not been developed since the war, resulting in no high voltage electricity lines, or any underground gas pipes, or any large roadways built in that area. And the particular characteristics of the soil there, resulted in an archaeological site which



has resulted in so much detail being unearthed.

Within the tragedy of Fromelles is something unique – an untouched communal war grave, that through the technological advances of DNA and archaeology, the families of soldiers killed in the battle have been brought together to understand their genealogy and family history. Their connection.

It is to my knowledge the only site from which we can say we know families today, who are related back three, four generations to a soldier who served at Fromelles. More than 3000 individuals have donated DNA samples in the hope of being able to match one of the remaining 84 soldiers buried at the Pheasant Wood Cemetery in Fromelles.

That means collectively we understand who these men were and the impact of the battle of Fromelles through the generations in a way not possible in other battles. So we know many of these men, almost like our ancestors did, and we honour them for what they did.

Lest We Forget.

[Annette Tebb lays a wreath dedicated to Ernest Jentsch & Madame Marie-Paule Demassiet]



For those lost so far from home.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL: CANBERRA: from the AWM Website

On the 106th Anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles on Tuesday 19th July 2022 the Australian War Memorial conducted a Last Post Ceremony in remembrance of 31st Battalion AIF digger John Joseph Goulding who died in the Battle of Fromelles, and whose body was only discovered in the mass grave at Pheasant Wood in 2008 after much work and lobbying by Lambis Englezos and his team.



During the Last Post Ceremony, a letter from Goulding's mother Alice to the Army authorities 3 years after the Battle, seeking information about him was read out. She died in 1922 without knowing more about him.

One of Lambis' team, Tim Whitford, (who gave a speech at the Melbourne Shrine today on behalf of Friends of the 15th Brigade), himself a descendant of Pte Harry Willis from 31st Battalion, also buried in the mass grave, found Alice Goulding's letter in Goulding's Army file. When Peter Corlett, who had sculpted the "Cobbers" statue at Fromelles in the 1990s saw the letter, he sculpted a small statue of Alice Goulding holding a photo of her son with eyes downcast in mourning and gifted it to Lambis for his great work in discovering the bodies at Pheasant Wood. The statue was so admired that fundraising was conducted and in 2017 a full sized statue was completed and now stands beside the Victory Arch at Ballarat Vic.

Lest We Forget

31ST BATTALION MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION: IPSWICH – from Michael James

The 31st Infantry Battalion Assoc (Brisbane Branch) in conjunction with the Ipswich & Rosewood RSL sub branches conducted a successful Commemoration of the Battle of Fromelles on the 106th Anniversary of the Battle.

In his welcome address, President Ray Fogg paid tribute to the generosity of Mme Marie Paule Demassiet, who passed away on Friday. She had generously allowed the digging for Fromelles bodies on her land and then donated land for the Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery where our diggers are buried.

Honoured guests were the Federal Member for Blair, the Hon. Shayne Neumann MP and the Mayor of Ipswich, Ms Teresa Harding. Also, the Commanding Officer of 31st/42nd Battalion RQR, Lt Col Dave Gandy, who gave a very informative Official Address and was accompanied by his RSM, WO1 David Harding.

Lt Col Gandy not only spoke about the Battle, but also explained how the 31st/42nd, the only Battalion from the Battle still active in the Australian Army today, continues to this day to honour the sacrifice of their forebears in the Battle.

Also present was the Asst Comd (Trg) of 11 Brigade, Col Arran Hassell from Brisbane. The 11 Brigade commands the 3 Infantry Battalions and other reserve Units from Qld.

We again had the services of Padre Peter Woodward and Bugler Brad Strong. Also this year we had Pipes & Drums of the National Service Assoc.

For those lost so far from home.

This year we had relatives of Lt James Danaher, who fought in the Battle of Fromelles attending. They were Great Grand Nephew James Danaher 3rd and Great Grand Niece Siobhan Bouma. Another relative attending was Sean Kirby, a Great Grandson of Sgt Cyril Kirby MM who fought at Fromelles. Unfortunately, some others including relatives of Cpl ER Kent MM, couldn't attend because of Covid. Four schools attended this year, Ipswich Grammar School, St Edmunds College, where a student gave an address on Lt James Danaher, an old boy of St Edmunds, Bremer State High School and Ripley Valley State Secondary College. Presentations were made to the 2 RSL sub branches and the 4 schools with St Edmunds receiving a Tribute of their Old Boy.

Lt Col David Gandy's speech can be read in full on the Facebook page of 31st Battalion AIF Memorial Association. After giving a detailed explanation of the unfolding of the Battle of Fromelles, we provide the following edited material for your consideration:

Due to the high casualties, the Battle of Fromelles was basically kept under wraps and as the Aust. 1st, 2nd & 4th Divisions entered the Battle of the Somme on the 23rd July the Battle of Fromelles was forgotten & the casualties conveniently became part of the Somme offensive. The British never ever recorded Fromelles as a separate Battle & it is not recognised as such to this Day.

However, Australians regard it as a Battle & the 31st Bn being the only Unit of the 5th Div in WW1 still operational & on strength in the ADF,

I can assure you we will continue to recognise it & commemorate the Diggers who fought & died there as I said earlier.

Many soldiers from this battle were and still remain unidentified and buried in mass graves in proximity to where the fighting took place predominantly in no man's lands whereby they were buried in groups of ten. It is largely thanks to the work of Lambis Englezos in finding and identifying Australian soldiers killed in the battle that this number is reducing as we gather here today The story of Lambis is well documented by Tony [Wadeson] and I strongly recommend you all read about his mission and quest to date. Including two 31st Battalion members LCPL R Johnson and PTE L C Dunn, whose headstones were recently unveiled in 2019 in Fromelles.



Which brings me in conclusion to end on a more positive note and advise you how we are honouring the memories of the fallen. The 31/42 RQR is a proud unit that stretches from Cairns to Biloela and is steadily growing from strength to strength from its humble beginnings to form and constitute the vanguard of the 11th brigade in the north and central Queensland. Given its valued geographical position, it is strongly supported by the 3rd Combat brigade and 5th Aviation Regiment for which we are habitually aligned and this provides the 11th Brigade with a range of excellent training opportunities and access to equipment and platforms that enable the unit to be very effective and capable. Whilst the unit is small, it certainly packs a punch as evidenced by the amount of activities, exercises and deployments the unit has committed to and being relied to complete recently.

Believe it or not, the unit has deployed on every domestic emergency response operation with the exception of three occasions in the last 5 years. Whether it be in support of the residents affected by bushfires in Kangaroo Island and Victoria, floods in SE QLD, Townsville and Mackay, the ongoing support to

For those lost so far from home.

the pandemic and nursing homes throughout the country or live SEARCH and rescue of missing personnel in outback QLD with the QPS- the Bn has led or had representatives present. During my tenure, the Bn has deployed section strength size elements on 3x 6 month deployments supporting border protection efforts in NW Australia and at the beginning of the year the RSM and I led an OP Resolute rotation out of Torres Strait which is the first time the Bn led an operation in quite some time. Right now the Bn along with 9 RQR and 25/49 RQR have deployed to Tully conducting Jungle training in the true spiritual home of the infantry. Which is once again the first time a purely reserve contingent has been able to muster a commitment that size. The unit is leading force modernisation efforts as part of the second division road to being an independent and fully capable formation able to lead ADF domestic response effort regardless of the threat, for which the division is and will be able to do. The division is extremely well led by MAJGEN Dave Thomas as is the Brigade under BRIG Mark Armstrong and COL Hassell who I have to give a shout out too as he is standing right in front of me. They have driven this direction and the soldiers are happy and willing to support.

As Fulltime operators, the RSM and I are continually stunned and extremely proud of the ARES soldier who have demonstrated time and time again how capable they truly are. Their commitment to the Army is a true inspiration to us all as it is generally is their third priority behind their civilian employment and their family, yet they turn up and provide a level of service and professionalism that rivals



the hardened soldiers in the Combat brigades for which I have served most of my career. These soldiers are your front line, they are very capable, battle hardened, ready, motivated and they will continue to support the respective communities that they are a part of and they are honoured to do so as with every time they don the uniform, the colour patch of the whispering boomerang and the raging minotaur ...they are honouring the memory of our fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice. Many have tried to forget about this failed offensive, however I assure you we will continue to punch on.

As per our motto – Semper paratus defendere / cede nullius..

[Always ready to defend / surrender to no-one..]

Lest we forget

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE IN MELBOURNE – from their Facebook page.

Today, prior to the annual commemoration service for the Battle of Fromelles, we held a screening of the documentary, 'A Foreign Field', about the uncovering of a mass burial site at Pheasant Wood in 2008, recovering the fallen of Fromelles for their families and for their country. Melbourne schoolteacher and central figure to the success of making the discovery, Lambis Englezos, provided this introduction for the screening, recorded in the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, France.

This annual pilgrimage by the Friends of the 15th Brigade commemorates the Battle at Fromelles, fought on 19 July 1916. This was the first major action involving Australian troops on the Western Front. It proved disastrous, with nearly 2,000 Australians killed in attacks on strong German positions.

For those lost so far from home.

FROM FROMELLES: from the Facebook pages of Musée De La Bataille De Fromelles, Pierre Seillier, and others:

In the leadup to the commemorations of the 106th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, the museum arranged for participation in 3 days of events.

Event 1: Monday, July 18th at 5.00pm: Focused on... Fromelles: the Missing.

Lambis Englezos, decorated by the Order of Australia AM, is an amateur art history and history teacher. He participated in the discovery in 2009 of the mass graves of Fromelles. The presentation was in English and translated simultaneously into French.

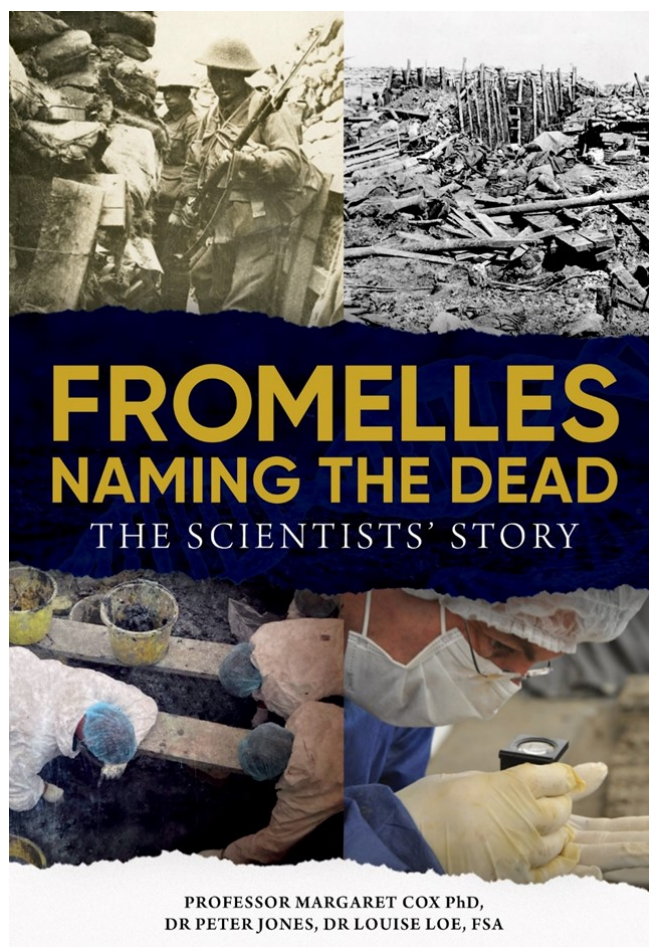
Event 2: Tuesday, July 19th, at 2:30pm Focused on... Pr. Cox, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Loe.

The book "Fromelles, Naming the Dead" was presented by its three authors, the scientists Pr. Cox, Dr. Jones and Dr. Loe, who participated in the archaeological excavations of Pheasant Wood's mass graves and the identification that resulted from it. They went back to their respective roles in the Fromelles Project in 2009 and then presented the story of this book in a world premiere. The meeting was followed by a signing session.

Event 3: Tuesday July 19th at 4.00pm Focused on...

The guided tour of the museum *in French*.

This Sunday we offered a guided tour of the permanent exhibition of the Battle Museum of Fromelles. It was an opportunity to (re)discover the battle, archaeological research and the stories of missing soldiers.



The Commemorative Service began at 6.00pm, to accord with the time at which the various battalions left their breastworks and proceeded with their attack on the German positions. This account from Pierre Seillier of Fromelles:

This year the temperature was very hot, more than 40°C. During the ceremony I felt a little unwell, but fortunately the men and women of the Australian Army brought fresh water to all those who needed it, and they took

good care of me. Our beloved Mrs. Marie Paule Demassiet who had been buried the same morning was honored in the speeches of our Australian friends, the ceremony was dedicated to her.

For those lost so far from home.

This year again I had the immense privilege of laying the wreath on behalf of the 31st Infantry Battalion Association, but as you can see in the photos I still have health problems with my legs, and the heat was so bad that my wife helped me and watched on me to prevent any discomfort, but everything went well. After this beautiful ceremony we met at Ecole Cobbers, the village school to drink a glass of friendship. [Pictured: Cornnne & Pierre Seillier]



I still had the immense privilege to be able to speak with Chaplain Major Frank Langford, and the other servicemen who congratulated me for my work with the children of the Cobbers school and my work for the memory of our brave Diggers. My friend Lieutenant Colonel François Nosaic was once again extremely kind to me.



[Pictured: Lambis Englezos laying a wreath on behalf of the Friends of the 15th Brigade.]

VALE: MADAME MARIE-PAULE DEMASSIET

16th July, 2022.

From Pierre Seillier:

"Hello to all my Aussie friends, many of you know that Lambis Englezos my great friend is in France, I'm back from Fromelles where I caught up with Lambis at Pheasant Wood. But I was surprised to see him with tears in his eyes. He told me the sad news and

asked that I warn all our friends in France and Australia.

It is with a great sadness that I must warn all the friends of the great Fromelles' Family that Ms Marie Paule Demassiet passed away this morning... Ms Marie Paule Demassiet was the great lady who gave the permission to do the researches for the mass graves at Pheasant Wood because she was the owner of the land. She was the lady who said after the discovery of the remains of our brave soldiers "I give my Land to Australia..."

We are all devastated, because we loved her so much. By a strange coincidence the funeral will take place on next Tuesday, 19th July at 10.30 am...gathering at the church of Fromelles at 10.15am. She will have been with her "beloved young soldiers" as she said always, until her last breath... If some of you want to send condolence message, they can do it on my email (pierreseillier@hotmail.fr) and I will pass it to Marie Paule's daughter, Ms Annie Moreel and her family, who are my friends since a long time..."

Thank you for the dignity & safe place for "our boys" to be finally laid at rest & in peace.

[Picture next page:] Fromelles School 1936, 3rd row top left Marie-Paule Demmassiet née Beaussart, She was a Fromelles born girl, who grew up at Fromelles, who worked all her life in a farm at Fromelles, when she told me the family story, she said that her parents helped in 1919/20 to collect the remains of the Australian Soldiers on the Sugar Loaf salient to bury them on the new VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial... It was the beginning of her link with Australia, and as she said always "her beloved little soldiers". I miss the long hours when she taught me the local history, the local geography, and all the secret places off the village, where were the springs and other forgotten things...

For those lost so far from home.



Ecole de Fromelles Rue de la Mairie 1936

Rang 1(en bas, à gauche) Madeleine Pruvost, Armelle Lerouge, Louis Fournier, Yvonne Cousin, Louis Loé, Charles Mouquet, Gérard Becq, Roger Frémeaux, Colette Frémeaux, Marthe Labaere, Michel Duret—Rang2 Nelly Fournier, Marie-Thérèse Leclair, Henri Delepierre, Jeanne Dondaine, René Decamin, Andrée Decamin, Robert Pinte, Marthe Labaere?, Jeanine Carton, Agnès Becq, Marguerite Pinte—Rang3 Marie-Paule Beaussart, Ernest Coustenoble, Jeanne Delansay, Cécile Outters, Yolande Tibaux, Gérard Wallart, Casimir Charlet, Robert Charlet, Lucien Fruleux, Edmond Fruleux.

And on 19 July:

At Fromelles Church for Marie-Paule's funeral, I brought a slouch hat to put on the front of the coffin with a picture of Pheasant Wood cemetery and all her Little Soldiers... Back from Marie Paule's funeral, it was a beautiful ceremony, I was very happy to see Lieutenant Colonel

François Nozaïc with

three other Australian militaries and the official deputy of the Australian ambassador in France who attended the funeral and paid tribute to Ms Demassiet. I'm sure Marie-Paule was very happy to see her beloved Lambis at the church. On behalf of the family I wish to say thank you to all those who had kind words for Marie-Paule and her family. All those who paid tribute to her today in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and other places in Australia. Marie -Paule the symbol of the great Fromelles Family, our iconic granny... I share with you some pictures of Marie-



Paule, many of them with Aussie friends, that I have in my database or I received since last Friday...

When she spoke about Australians Soldiers and her involvement in the mass graves proces, she always said "Pour mes petits soldats" "For my little soldiers" and now that she knocks on heaven's door, I hope that all her little soldiers will welcome her with a standing ovation... Lest we forget.

For those lost so far from home.

And on 28 July, Pierre wrote:

I write you on behalf of the Demassiet/Moreel family, Annie Moreel, Marie Paule's daughter and the whole family were very touched by your words, and it was a great comfort for them and myself to know that you were with us in your thoughts during Marie-Paule's funeral. For that we have an eternal gratitude toward you.

Warm Regards and all our love from France...

Pierre Seillier and the Moreel Family.

VALE: JULIE WERNER from Royce Atkinson & Jim Munro

It is with great sadness that we also report that our long term friend and ardent supporter of the identification of Fromelles soldiers, Julie Werner, has passed away after from complications following surgery, on Monday 4th of July.

Julie was an active member of Families & Friends of the First AIF until mid 2017, but continued her interest in The Great War as a member of the Fromelles Association of Australia. Julie was a researcher with the Fromelles Assn of Australia and a firm friend, since 2012.

Julie's own soldier was Pte Francis Walter McKay, 14 Machine Gun Company, whose story will be soon published on our website. The story will be more personal than normal, and will embody some thoughts / information on Julie as well as Frank.



[15 July 2010 WF Tour Day 2 Julie with Lorraine Crawshaw]

Her focus was on the life and experiences of her relative Francis (Frank) Walter McKay, a very practical and sporty Farmer's son who trained as a Motor Mechanic and was also a talented boxer and AFL player. Frank toured many county shows with the Jim Sharman Boxing tent but after hearing of the Gallipoli experiences enlisted in the NSW Sportsmens' 1,000 Battalion in September 1915.

Initially a reinforcement with 20 Bn, in 1916 Frank transferred to the 14th Machine Gun Company, 14 Bde 5th Division and participated in the Battle of Fromelles 19/20

July when he was Killed in Action. He has no known grave.

Julie participated in the 2010 FFFAIF Western Front Tour 14 - 28 July 2010, the highlight of which would have been to visit the Fromelles battlefield and attend the Dedication of the new Fromelles

For those lost so far from home.



(Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery on 19 July 2010.

However, Julie didn't make it Fromelles as she was hospitalised in Ieper on 17 July with deep vein thrombosis (DVT) for several weeks before being repatriated to Australia. On learning of Julie's admission, the then Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Dr Brendan Nelson arranged for Consular staff to visit Julie during her hospitalisation.

Julie's recovery was slow and incomplete, but she participated in FFFAIF activities attending lectures and Commemorations, while progressing her writing up of the story of Pte Frank McKay. Some years later, Julie was able to visit Fromelles to see the former battlefield where Frank had been killed.

Julie participated in the 2017 Fromelles Day Commemoration in Sydney by laying a wreath along with Rene Herbert and Helen Carey, in memory of the Missing.



On 19 July 2018 Julie Werner and her grand-daughter Freya, descendants of Pte Francis Walter McKay, 14 MGC KIA at Fromelles, and Helen Carey a relative of brothers Jack and Tim Carey, 53 Bn, both also KIA at Fromelles, laid a wreath in memory of the Missing,



A remembrance service took place on 18th July. The Families and Friends of the First AIF and the Fromelles Association of Australia send their Condolences to Julie's family. May she Rest in Peace.

For those lost so far from home.



For the soldiers who fought at Fromelles,
For Madame Marie Paule Demassiet
For Julie Werner
Lest We Forget

OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK: A MESSAGE FROM MARG O'LEARY

Hello all, hope you are keeping safe and well in this difficult time.

Thank you to all involved with the story writing project, webpage and Facebook, for all the inspiring work you have done in getting additional stories onto the website and Facebook over the past few weeks, in time for the Fromelles' anniversary on 19 July.

Check Fromelles Association of Australia on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Fromelles-Association-of-Australia-400714926696817/>

The website is: <https://www.fromelles.info/>

And the soldiers' pages at: <https://www.fromelles.info/soldiers/>

155 stories now added - many contain stories of other soldiers in the family, so it covers far more. Siblings, mates and more.

Recent additions to the website are stories in regard to:-

Private Herbert George Smith 2/1 Bucks Regiment

Private Edgar Lang, 2652, 32 Bn

Private George Mackenzie, 3234 32 Bn

Private Frederick George Usher 2813, 59 Bn

Lt Roy Liddelow, 59 Bn

Capt Aubrey Liddelow 59 Bn

For those lost so far from home.

Pte Lemuel Batey, 166, 29th Battalion

Pte Tasman Vale, 776, 30th Battalion, and

Pte Gerardus Paling, 3540A, 53rd Battalion

We are so gratified with the feedback, and how it has brought some relatives forward, who had no idea ... including some who want to help with the genealogy research.

And the range is wide, including the depth of the family story. Subjects include others who were around the battle including nurses/medical staff, chaplains, cooks, runners, accountants and cyclists – also a British soldier and a German soldier.

We would be really pleased to receive feedback, suggestions etc. And if anyone needs additional help with their story, please contact us: marg@fromelles.info

We have a system where we can update stories as additional information arrives (or if someone has been identified).

As more soldiers' stories are finalised, our plan is to contact the newspaper in the particular soldier's home town, after we place their story on website.

If you have any relatives who might like to be involved in our story for the local newspaper, we would welcome their assistance in getting the story 'out there'

There are no announced identifications this year, as the responsibility for panels etc, is being passed to Australia.

But our genealogy team is still going ahead, with research and finding donors.

Stories are coming in from this source, as relatives dive into the old family trunks for the memorabilia.

Thank you again, the website is everything we hoped it would be and more.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE CANBERRA OPEN DAY

We have been invited by our Patron Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, to participate in Government House Open Day, in Canberra, on Saturday 8 October, 2022.

The event, which takes place between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm, will be the first open day held at Government House since 2019, and offers an ideal opportunity to promote our organisation to an expected 5,000+ visitors.

We have expressed our wish to participate, and are now arranging for suitable content to be on display on the day. As all stalls are required to be set up by 8:30 am on Saturday morning, participating organisations are encouraged to undertake bump-in on Friday afternoon where possible.

If you are in the Canberra area on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th October, we would appreciate your assistance in the setting up, and for conduct of the stall on the 8th October itself. All expressions of interest can be sent to Bill Irvine via bill@fromelles.info, to Jim Smith via jim@fromelles.info, and to Geoffrey Benn via geoffrey@fromelles.info.

Further information about Government House Open Day is available at [Open Days | Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia \(gg.gov.au\)](https://www.gg.gov.au/open-days)

For those lost so far from home.

**NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
FROMELLES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
20 AUGUST, 2022, COMMENCING 2.00PM
TO BE CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM SOFTWARE.**

You are invited to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Fromelles Association AGM

Time: Aug 20, 2022, 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86411721918?pwd=aDB6d0NOaWtudHlqQVhZeXp2TmFoQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 1172 1918

Passcode: 866236

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 24 July, 2021.
2. Matters arising.
3. Presentation of Reports.
 - ◆ President
 - ◆ Treasurer
 - ◆ Director of Genealogy
 - ◆ Director of Soldiers Stories
4. Notice of Resolution for Amendment of Constitution – see below
5. Election of Office Bearers
6. Presentations from Guests.
7. Meeting Close

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MOTION ON NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of Notice of Motion to Approve Special Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Fromelles Association as follows:

To change *Section 14 Composition and membership of Committee* of the Fromelles Association of Australia Constitution to better suit the changed needs of the Association. To consider, and if thought fit, to pass, with or without modification(s), the following resolution as a Special Resolution:

THAT Section 14 of the Constitution be Amended to provide the following, with changes marked in italics and bold print, to the following:

14. Composition and membership of committee

1. The committee is to consist of:
2. the office-bearers of the association, and
3. at least 1 ordinary committee members, each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under clause 15.
4. *The total maximum number of committee members is to be 7.*

For those lost so far from home.

1. The office-bearers of the association are as follows:
2. the President,
3. *one or more Vice Presidents,*
4. the Treasurer,
5. the Secretary,
6. *the Director of Genealogy,*
7. *Publicity and Social Media Officer,* and
8. one other.
9. *A committee member may hold up to 2 offices.*

Each member of the committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election.

Justification for the change: The existing Section 14 of the Constitution only lists 3 office bearers:- The President, the Treasurer and the Secretary, and in addition to the office bearers, one ordinary member of the association is elected to the committee.

For the last several years we have been operating a committee with an additional 2 Vice Presidents and last year with the retirement of President Royce Atkinson we created a position of Director of Genealogy. The new structure better represents the many facets of the Association, the business side, genealogy, soldiers' stories and the web site.

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Contact details for our committee are as follows:-

President: Geoffrey Benn —email: geoffrey@fromelles.info

Address: 13 Bromfield Avenue, Toongabbie 2146

Vice-President: Marg O'Leary (Research) - email: marg@fromelles.info

Vice-President: Ann Watson (Research & Asst. Treasurer) - email: ann@fromelles.info

Secretary: Jim Smith —jim@fromelles.info

Treasurer: Bill Irvine —email: bill@fromelles.info

Membership to Bill Irvine, at 41

Chantilly Court,

Goulburn 2580

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For those lost so far from home.