

THE FAIRLIE ACCESSIBLE

Lock Down Edition 4

24 April 2020



ANZAC Day - 25 April 2020

The entire Mackenzie is welcome to come join us and stand at our gates at **6.00 am** on ANZAC Day in silent respect and then sing the NZ National Anthem. Make your own ANZAC flag and display it at your home with pride.



Want to support the work of the local Mackenzie RSA? Please donate to Bank A/c 03-1718-0002237-00.

NZTA Message:

Please stay safe and stay home on Anzac Day and Anzac weekend to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you need to travel to access essential supplies or provide essential services – stick to the speed limit, obey all road rules, stay alert and take extra care around cyclists and walkers on the roads. Show your respect. Commemorate Anzac Day at home. To learn how you can do this visit standatdawn.com

Anzac Day Stories

Thank you to all who sent in stories and poems for our Anzac Day Competition. Results will follow in the next Issue. Here's a sample by Luke Campbell, age 10 ...

My Anzac Poem about my Great Grandfather

Stanley Joseph Guard

My great grandfather he was a Home Guard.
He trained for invasions and held the rest of his
troop in highest regard.

They trained with grenades, guns and mortars, they
were ready if the Japanese came over to slaughter.

They climbed the trees as lookout zones and would
throw grenades like flying stones.

When they didn't have rifles, guns or grenades, they
trained with broom sticks which drove them insane.

My great grandfather Stanley Joseph Guard, he was
proud to do his part as he worked very hard for the
Fairlie Home Guard.



ANZAC DAY · 25 APRIL

Lest We Forget

The Great War and its Consequences

Between October 1914 and October 1918 some 453 men with an association to the MacKenzie County left New Zealand for the Great War. During that time the County had a population of around 2,000, in other words nearly half our male population was at some time serving either in the Middle East or on the Western Front. Farms, the railways and the service industry were run by those 'out of age' and by women. Such figures are not specifically recorded in many parts of New Zealand, but the MacKenzie figures are probably not unusual in rural districts.

We are able to, with a good degree of accuracy, narrow down the former homes of these men who served. The vast majority of them lived between Cave and the Fairlie Basin, quite a different spread compared to today. Many of the gullies around Cave, Albury and Fairlie would host 10 families with between 5-10 children in each. Such gullies now days might host three, with only a handful of children.

By October of 1918 it was evident that the war had very much swung our way, and would be soon over. During that month, what was known as the Spanish Flu broke out in a US Army camp in West Kansas, which spread with extraordinary speed throughout North America, with US troops spreading it to France, and so on. The flu didn't arrive here until the end of October but struck particularly hard in November and early December, then simply disappeared.

It is generally accepted that returning wounded NZ troops brought the flu back with them. The men still serving overseas couldn't return immediately to NZ because there simply were not enough ships left in service. In 1919 the flu made a devastating comeback, and at the end of it nearly 9,000 New Zealanders had died from it. It was an unusual influenza in that it attacked the immune system in people aged 20-40, some victims would arise from bed feeling well in the morning, feel ill at lunch, and be dead by nightfall. Our County got off lightly compared the likes of Temuka. Most of our men returned during the winter of 1919, and thankfully the flu had gone, and it was then that towns and cities around New Zealand were finally able to celebrate the victory of the year before.

An example of the shortage of men was the inability of the MacKenzie Rugby Sub-Union to restart the local competition which had been abandoned in 1915. Attempts were made in 1919 and 1920, but failed. In most parts of New Zealand things returned to 'normal' in 1921. However many of those that returned from the war never returned to 'normal', damaged mentally and physically, some of them, even locally, lived in tin shed's on river beds as hermits and most of them didn't live long enough to see the next war in 1939.



The Fairlie Brigade has only had one callout during the lock down period so far. We have plans in place to protect our Brigade firefighters should the need arise. Our general training is very limited at this time but the duty crews are still doing the weekly checks and making sure everything is ready to roll.

Hopefully everyone has been able to fill their time in throughout the lock down. There are a couple of things you could check on –

- Do you have an escape plan for your family should you have a fire?
- Have you checked your smoke alarm battery? Clean the alarm with the vacuum cleaner.
- Check your gas bottle for leaks with soapy water.
- Have a look at your driveway - is there good access to get a fire appliance up the driveway or do you need to trim the trees?
- Does the chimney need a clean?
- Have you got dry fire wood to burn this winter?

I will be missing out on my yearly exercise this ANZAC day as there is no march up Fairlie's Main Street because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but our thoughts go out to the returned service people who gave so much. There are members of our Brigade whose parents served overseas during WW2. I can remember marching as a St John cadet when the parade started at the Primary School and there were many rows of returned service people. My uncle was one of them and when the call was made to come to attention and march, they did it with pride - a big day for those guys. We will never know how hard they had it.

With the touch of snow on the hills, it is perhaps a sign winter is near. Have a great week. Wayne Dixon

If you need help call 111

We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat
*Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be.
 For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee.
 For others, this is a desperate financial and family crisis.
 For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness.
 While for others it is peace, rest and time with their mother, father, sons and daughters.
 Some bring in more money to their households than before.
 Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.
 Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.
 Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money.*

Golden Rules for life at Alert Level 3

1. **Stay home.** If you are not at work, school, exercising or getting essentials then you must be at home, the same as at Alert Level 4.
2. **Work and learn from home if you can.** We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home, and they will be supported to do so. Early learning centres and schools will physically be open for up to Year 10 for families that need them.
3. **Make your business COVID-19 safe.** COVID-19 has spread in workplaces, so the quid pro quo of being able to open is doing it in a way that doesn't spread the virus.
4. **Stay regional.** You can exercise at parks or beaches within your region, but the closer to home the better. Activities must be safe – keep 2 metres away from anybody not in your bubble. Make minimal trips.
5. **Keep your bubble as small as possible.** If you need to, you can expand your bubble a small amount to bring in close family, isolated people or caregivers.
6. **Wash your hands often with soap. Then dry them.** Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
7. **If you are sick, stay at home and quickly seek advice from your GP or Healthline about getting a test.** There is no stigma to COVID-19. We will only be successful if everyone is willing to play their part in finding it wherever it is.

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

Local Welfare Helpline: 0800 24 24 11

This number is available 7am to 7pm, seven days a week for people who feel vulnerable and have no alternative means of accessing essential services such as food and medicine. Please pass this number on to anyone you think needs it.

The Fairlie Accessible Lock Down Issues will continue during Level 3 and are available on the Fairlie NZ website



*Some families received \$14,000 from the stimulus while other families received \$0.
 Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.
 Some are home, spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.
 Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it.
 Others don't believe this is a big deal.
 Some have faith in God and expect miracles.
 Others say the worst is yet to come.
**So, friends, we are not in the same boat.
 We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.***

