

NEWS

Kempsey pays its respect

BY SAM PAYNE

THE Kempsey Macleay RSL sub-Branch held a commemorative service today (November 11) to remember the ex-servicemen and women who fought for our country.

This was the first time in more than two decades the day has been marked without Australia being involved in an active conflict.

President of the Kempsey Macleay RSL sub-Branch, Allan Wardrope, said it was important to reflect on the battles of the past.

"We should consider ourselves so damn lucky that our forefathers did what they did, and we as ex-servicemen are very proud by the fact we follow in their footsteps," Mr Wardrope said.

The ceremony was held at the Kempsey cenotaph which included a reading of The Ode and playing of The Last Post before veterans and the public observed a minute's silence followed by the wreath laying ceremony.

Mr Wardrope said some residents didn't come due to COVID concerns, but over-



RSL sub-Branch members at the wreath laying.

all he thought the turn-out was great.

"I think it was a total success in regard to what we have gone through in the last two years," Mr Wardrope said.

The ceremony was followed by a lunch for returned veterans and sub-Branch members at the Memorial Hall.

Remembrance Day is observed on November 11 and marks the signing of the peace agreement between Germany and the Allies that ended the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

In the four years of the war more than 330,000

Australians had served overseas, and more than 60,000 of them had died.

The social effects of these losses cast a long shadow over the postwar decades.

The day has since expanded over the years to solemnly remember all the fallen men and women who have lost their lives serving our country.

We will remember them. Lest We Forget.

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Judy Beilby and Helen Joyce at the gathering following the service.

Strong pathways in place for graduates

THERE is more than one pathway for students to finish their schooling, and the new Indigenous-led NASCA programs in Kempsey have been proving just that.

The National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA) has been running programs at Melville and Kempsey high schools to help students connect to culture, support their academic achievement, and succeed in school.

Rosie Fatnowna works as a program lead supporting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women at Mel-

ville High School.

"It's been a tough year for our girls. We did everything we could to support them during lockdown, but there is nothing like building that face-to-face relationship," Rosie said.

"That's what really makes a difference. It's so good to be back inside the school gates with them."

Starting with NASCA earlier this year, Rosie believes it's all about supporting the students individually so they can make strong choices.

This holistic support proved beneficial with se-

mester 1 attendance for Aboriginal secondary students enrolled in NASCA at Kempsey High School and Melville High School at 85 per cent; significantly higher than the state average of 76.6 per cent.

Student at Melville High School, Jorja Egar-Hoskins, was excited to be graduating.

"I'm proud to be one of 63 NASCA students graduating high school this year. Next year I'm planning on going to university to study policing so that I can help out our community who need it most," Jorja said.

"I hope that I can get the opportunity to find the best ways to get into university to help me on my path to success."

Proud Yuin woman and NASCA national program director, Skye Parsons, said every student they are able to support is another step towards real equity in education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"We know that creating safe spaces at school, helping our students to connect to culture, and supporting them academically is what is needed for our students."



From left to right, Shaylah Thompson, Rosie Fatnowna and Jorja Egar-Hoskins. Photo supplied by NASCA.

CAN I HAVE A CHILDHOOD !!!!

I AM A 10 YEAR OLD GIRL WANTING A PLACE TO CALL HOME!!!!!!

An Aboriginal Foster Care Agency in Kempsey are reaching out to help find this 10 year old girl a home.

Burrin Dalai are seeking expressions of interest from a loving individual or family to give this beautiful girl a place she can call home.

She loves doing things that make her happy, especially seeing her sisters and family are on the top of the list but just simple things like going to the park, beach walks and collecting shells, making cakes and cookies and other yummy stuff in the kitchen, watching movies to name a few.

She is self confident and loves doing puzzles but still needs support with understanding what is happening and needs time to process instructions.

For any person/family who would consider caring for this young girl the rewards greatly outweigh the challenges. We would be keen to meet and discuss your interest at your earliest convenience, this will give you the opportunity to ask any questions and have the process of becoming an authorised carer with our agency explained.

We welcome all interested applicants

Please phone the Burrin Dalai Office on : 6562 1913 or come in: Level 1, 21-23 Clyde Street, KEMPSEY NSW 2440

