

Primary entry #11: Maryland Public School

# Maryland Mercury



Tanya Bartlett's sculpture of the Australian Light Horse soldier.

## Local artist captures our memories

By **JASMINE RUSSELL, ZOE HUGHES, CAITLIN LUO and NIKEALY SIMCOE**

SCULPTOR Tanya Bartlett, of Maryland, has many well-known pieces throughout Australia. She is the artist behind the Lighthorse sculpture located in Tamworth.

Recounting the process of making the statue, Tanya said: "I worked around the clock for about six months on the sculpting of the light horse and trooper. The foundry took another four months or so. However, I worked with the committee for a number of years on the concept and helped with the fundraising for the statue."

The light horse sculpture, reflects Tanya's love for horses.

While at university studying art teaching, she chose ceramics as one of her majors. She combined her love of horses with this and produced some clay equine pieces.

These clay horses were then appreciated by other horse enthusiasts and a couple of gallery owners.

Tanya is the artist behind two other well-known statues in Bowral, the Mary Poppins statue and the Sir Donald Bradman statue. Sculptures of many famous Australian country music stars made by Tanya can also be found in Tamworth.

When she thought back to her childhood, she "always loved creative things". However, her school sculpture experience was, "No more adventurous than pinch pot piggy banks," Tanya said.

## Harmony from symbols

By **REEGAN BRADLEY and SHAILA HETTERICK**

EVERY year on March 21, Maryland Public School celebrates our country's cultural diversity with Harmony Day.

The word harmony comes from the Greek word "harmonia" meaning a "fastening or join".

The concept of harmony dates as far back as the late 6th century, showing how the word is used to refer to a connection between people joining in peace.

Our country has an outstanding multicultural status. The meaning of multiculturalism has changed significantly since its formal introduction to Australia.

Originally it was understood by the mainstream population as a need for acceptance.

Many people like to celebrate Harmony Day with a small community get-together. It can be celebrated with parties and festivals.

At Maryland Public school students who identify with an Aboriginal cultural background have recently painted a mural on one of the buildings at the school.

"I feel proud to be amongst the Aboriginal students at Maryland Public School," said student Samantha Henry. "It gives me honour to know that I helped paint this mural."

The mural has many different meanings to the wider community.



Samantha Henry affirms her connection to land and community at the smoking ceremony for Maryland Public School's mural on Harmony Day.

The large circle in the centre represents that everyone is working together; the animals are the area totems which are the kangaroo, the turtle and the snake.

The handprints represent the students working together and the hands along the top of the mural represent the staff and teachers.

The small dots coming out from the centre circle represent a path to reconciliation. The dots then join the circles on the outside that represent the achievement of reconciliation and harmony. The dabbed paint on either sides of the large circle represents the connection to land and environment.

"The mural is of great significance to the school and community. It is symbolic of the great respect we have to our Indigenous students and their culture. In this we take great pride, particularly when we can invite our friends to view and explain the work to others," said Shaila, a year 5 student.



Wallsend's VC Captain Clarence Jeffries.

## Soldiers and nurses show courage under fire

By **ZOE HUGHES and JASMINE RUSSELL**

MANY people may not know of Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries Victoria Cross, or Matron Ida Mary Greaves, who was the first woman to be awarded the Royal Red Cross.

Ida Greaves was a nurse who served in the First World War. She was born in Newcastle and attended

Newcastle East Public.

Ida was awarded the Royal Red Cross – an award instituted by Queen Victoria for exceptional conduct in military nursing.

She joined up with the Australian Voluntary Hospital within a month of the outbreak of WW1 and continued her service until 1919, when she returned home to Newcastle.

Ida was recognised for the

ground-breaking work in understanding and treatment of injuries from the new mechanised war machines.

Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries was born October 26, 1894 in Wallsend. He attended Dudley Public School and became a mining surveyor at Abermain.

In 1916 he joined the 9th Australian Brigade. He fought on the Western Front

and was seriously injured by a machine gun at Messines.

His Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously after he led attacks on German machine gun posts, capturing several guns, and killing or capturing their crews at Passchendaele.

Even though they have died, we will always remember all their determination, innovation and courage.

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