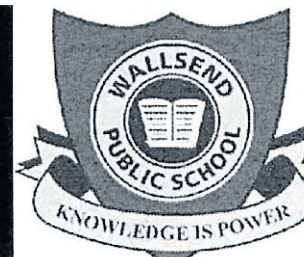
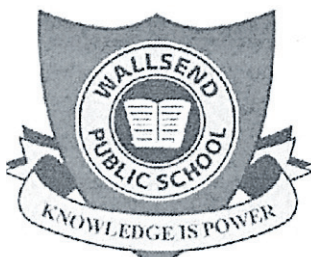


Primary entry #29: Wallsend Public School



Jasmin and Ashley search the Great War Honour Roll in a search for ex-pupils of Wallsend Public.

World War 1 memorial in Digger search

By JASMIN WILSON and ASHLEY MALONE

A VISIT to a war monument at Wallsend Park has lead Wallsend Public School students on a search about the school's very own Gallipoli soldier, Thomas MacLean.

Thomas was born in 1897. He attended Wallsend Public School in the early 1900s and became an orchardist after leaving school.

He enlisted in the 1st Light Horse Regiment on November 19, 1914. His unit embarked from Sydney on February 6, 1915.

Thomas was wounded by a bomb explosion at the Gallipoli Peninsula and was admitted to Tigne Hospital in Malta on August 12, 1915. He died of his wounds on August 20, aged 18 and was buried at Pieta Military Cemetery.

School principal, Sandra Colman, said, "I am proud to know that we have a connection to World War 1 and Gallipoli through Mr MacLean. I am proud of the sacrifices made by so many that have allowed Australia to be a free country.

"The school honoured the memory of Private Maclean in this year's school Anzac service."

With the help of the Wallsend Heritage Group and residents, students have been researching his life and searching for descendants. One of the students discovered that Thomas may be a distant relative. The student said, "I am very excited to keep researching this possibility."

By CHERRY ZHANG, BLAKE KUMAR and HAYLEY MALISZEWSKI

LAST month, Newcastle councillors forwent a pay rise to fund a Wallsend Master Plan.

Newcastle lord mayor, Nuatali Nelmes, reported that an "overwhelming majority of councillors" supported a project for the Wallsend town centre.

The Wallsend town centre serves a large district and is one of the first ports of call when travelling into Newcastle.

At present, the Floodplain Risk Management Plan and Study for the Wallsend Commercial Centre is on exhibition.

The plan proposes a number changes to traffic flow in Wallsend and the potential to build new bridges where risks have been identified in terms of the one in 100-year flood levels.

With plans already in place for work in the area, and money already in the budget, it is a great time to start developing a Master Plan for Wallsend.

Over the next couple of years, council is hoping to collect data from key stakeholders and identify key projects with an aim to improve the look and feel of the town centre and grow and foster economic development in the main street. Projects may include improve-



Wallsend streets are set to receive a facelift.

ments to: building façades, shop fronts, pedestrian access, and lighting and signage.

Ms Nelmes said the Master Plan will be an "over-arching document that has a longer vision." The "vision would be over a 10-15 year period. The plan will be implemented over that period of time."

Ms Nelmes said that the scope will encompass the "whole town centre and will take into account

what is already in the area." It will include "Nelson Street and the adjacent streets leading into the town centre."

Consultation will take place with the Wallsend business community as well as people who live and work in the area and anyone else who is interested.

Ms Nelmes said, "in preparing a master plan, for any sight, gathering information and understanding

how the area is used by pedestrians, cars, bikes, shoppers and other people who visit Wallsend" is important. We need to "work out why people are going there and what they need."

The people of Wallsend have requested their share of funding and this is a great opportunity for the people to work together to come up with a shared vision for the town.



Wallsend students building community ties with the Newcastle Muslim Association.

Hearts warmed by mosque support

By ELOISE METCALFE, ABIGAIL MOORE, JASMIN WILSON and HANNAH ELSHIEKH

THE Newcastle Muslim Association is overwhelmed by the support received from the wider community following attacks on the Wallsend Mosque at the end of last year.

The president and vice-president, Diana Rah, are delighted by the support received. "We have had a lot of support from the wider

community," Ms Rah said. The support came from local church groups and community members. People left flowers at the mosque as a gesture of support.

A Wallsend student who attends the mosque said she was "a little bit scared" after the attacks, but "people put flowers down and I felt happy."

"On the whole, Newcastle is a friendly city", Ms Rah said. "It is a small percentage of people" who are not accepting. "We feel happy to be part of the community".

The attacks had not affected attendance. When asked what she likes best about being part of the Muslim community, the student said, "all the people that come and how we come together and pray together."



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