



Anzac Day 2020

Normally on the week of Anzac Day we hold a service before training where a few words are said in remembrance and where we take time to reflect on the sacrifice so many made

That's "normally".. and our world at present isn't that.

That's worth reflecting on for a moment and then read this very Australian story.

In 1915 a wounded Digger brought back with him a small rosemary bush from ANZAC Cove. The bush was planted in the Army Hospital grounds at Keswick in South Australia. Sprigs of this rosemary bush were worn to honour the fallen on Anzac Day from that point forward. However, the heritage of the rosemary bush itself was only remembered in the 1980's after a landscaper went to remove the bush from the gardens, only to be told it's amazing history from the hospital gardener.

To preserve the plant's history, the landscaper - a bloke named David Lawry - took the rosemary bush back to his nursery and started propagation. Back in 2015 on the centenary of Anzac, there was a project all around the nurseries of Australia to grow and distribute this "Gallipoli Rosemary". We got ours (donated by Cameron's Nursery at Arcadia) and it was planted in the front of the Club's office.

Its thriving



Our service each year is simple and each year we say the same thing; We remind ourselves that all those years ago in 1915, young people were playing football one week, and on a ship off to fight for their country in the war the next.

Each week the number of young men in the community, including those available to play their sport of rugby would get less and less

100 years ago, if you were a rugby player, you would not be playing rugby. The rugby competition was suspended because of the war. At the war's end The Sydney Morning Herald reported that the NSWRU had 4000 members, of whom 3872 (97%) had enlisted and 382, **1 in every 10**, had died in active service

Boys like W Scott and R Wilson

Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW : 1888 - 1950), Saturday 25 September 1915, page 8

EASTWOOD.

FOOTBALLERS TO THE FRONT.

The Eastwood School of Arts was crowded to overflowing by an enthusiastic audience, for a send-off by the Eastwood Rugby Football Club to three more of its members who have enlisted for active service in the great European war, viz., Cecil Gillett, Charles Neville, and Arthur Forrest. Mr. J. Moore presided. Mr. J. E. Justelins, on behalf of the club, presented each of the departing soldiers with a safety razor and wished them a safe return. Each of the departing boys briefly responded. Refreshments were provided. It might be added here that from the Northern District Rugby Union (comprising a membership of 250) 196 have volunteered for the front up to the present. From the Eastwood club alone 15 have already gone, two of whom (W. Scott and R. Wilson) having unfortunately been killed, and most of the others wounded. The chairman presented the trophies won during the season—to Cecil Gillett, individual play; Roy Gallard, most improved form; Charles Neville, for most number of tries; and to Roy Madden, best forward play.

Lest we forget