

Point Clare Cemetery War Graves

Dear Sub Branch Secretary,

My name is Karen Askew and I run tours at Point Clare Cemetery.

As a part of Central Coast Councils History Month and coinciding closely with ANZAC Day 2019, I am holding a special one off tour of the Cemetery visiting the some of the returned service men's graves.

160,000 Troops enlisted to the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) and approximately 1/3 of those enlisted did not return home to Australia.

Many of the sons of the Gosford District enlisted for what was viewed by them as a big overseas adventure. Possibly like many young men their own mortality was the least of their concerns.

We have at Point Clare Cemetery there are 23 of the large Commonwealth War Graves Commissions headstones that were awarded to Veterans (1919 to 1952) and it is those graves that the tour will be visiting today. After 1952 a bronze plaque style of headstone was awarded to veterans.

There are 16 of the white marble stones and 7 of the brown granite stones. We have at Point Clare Cemetery several service numbers that are within the first 1000 of men who enlisted. We even have the soldier whose service number is Number One.

The some of the returned servicemen we are visiting are born and breed locals and some settled here after the war. All were no doubt changed by their war time experiences. The brother in law of the Editor of the local paper would write from the Gallipoli Peninsula. These published accounts of the war front gave the people of Gosford a ringside view of happenings and were often far more current than the official reports.

The during the war years Gosford district was gripped with patriotic fever, there were recruitment drives, red Cross Branches forming and all sorts of charitable efforts for widows and children. Besides the Service men's graves we will be visiting some of the women who established the Red Cross Branch and a child whose death has been attributed to catching the Spanish Flu from a Returned Service man.

I trust you or some of your member's may find this tour of interest.

Tour Date : 20th April 2019

Each tour will be strictly **limited to 25 people** per tour and there will be x2 tours on the day.

One tour in the morning and one tour in the afternoon.

The tour cost \$25.00 per person and are for 2 hours duration. Light refreshments are served and are included in the price.

Phone 0405 605 034 to arrange a booking.

If I do not answer send a text and I will return your call, in my other job I drive a lot and may be driving when you call.

I am sending this email to all of the local Sub Branches in the hope of having a majority of RSL members along to enjoy the tour. Should the tour prove to be a popular variation of the Point Clare History Tours it may become an annual event for ANZAC, Armistice Day and by request of a RSL Sub branch in the future

Thanking you for your time

Karen Askew.