

Students make poppies for 'Stitches in Time' Exhibition 4-11 September Rylstone Memorial Hall

Local school children are getting involved with the Rylstone and District Historical Society's History Week exhibition 'Stitches in Time - Stories of the WWI Rylstone Autograph Quilt 1915'. Six schools are making poppies to enliven the displays in memory of the many local boys and men who gave their lives during the War.

Felicity Cresswell is helping students at Glen Alice Public; Faye Le Poidevin is guiding students at Ilford Public; Carol-Ann Moffit-Neich is helping students at Kandos Public; Edwina McEgan is assisting students at Lue Public; Jodee Burcher is helping students at Rylstone Public and Cat Brown is facilitating the project with students at Kandos High School. The hundreds of poppies, of all shapes and sizes, will be attached to the display stands and will adorn the WWI honour plaque permanently hanging in Rylstone Memorial Hall.

RDHS retiring President, and Curator of the Exhibition, Helen Marsonet said "Its important to involve the young people in local history. I think they will enjoy many aspects of the exhibition which is aimed at all ages - and there will be a few surprises too!"

One hundred years ago, for the original Australia Day celebrated on 30 July 1915, students raised funds for the relief of the wounded in the Dardanelles by selling badges and other items. The Mudgee Guardian of Monday July 12, 1915 reported that " 'Jacky' Fletcher has proved himself a fine salesman in disposing of either shillings worth of golliwogs, daintily made by his sister Ivy. Another girl worker has successfully rounded the heel of her first sock, which accompanies her everywhere, and is her joy and terror. Other girls are busy making jug d'oyleys. Miss Mabel Bisby is making a beautiful centre-piece, to be sold for the funds." Source: "Rylstone Red Cross Society Good Work Done"

'Stitches in Time' is an official History Week event. The exhibition, open daily from 10 to 4 pm from Friday 4th September to Friday 11th September at Rylstone Memorial Hall, Louee Street, will feature biographical profiles of soldiers and families from the district and a wide range of artefacts from the Rylstone and District Historical Society museum relating to the soldiers and local families. Every day at 2 pm there will be selection of World War One poems read by Owain James. There will be daily demonstrations of embroidery in the manner of the quilt, how to knit an army sock and how to weave using a table loom.

In the spirit of the original Australia Day of 30 July 1915, the Rylstone Hospital Pink Ladies, Rylstone Country Women's Association, Rylstone Public P&C, and Kids and Carers will be raising funds for their own projects by providing morning and afternoon teas.

Entry is by gold coin donation.