



**Government
of South Australia**

Veterans SA

**Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs**

Macclesfield Memorial Gardens Opening

**Sunday, 15 March, 2015
10.30am – 11.30am**

Macclesfield Oval, Strathalbyn Road, Macclesfield

Acknowledgements

- Mr Jamie Briggs MP - Assistant Minister for Infrastructure & Regional Development and Member for Mayo
- Ms Isobel Redmond MP - Member for Heyson
- Mayor Anne Ferguson- District Council of Mount Barker
- Mr Dennis Oldenhove, President, Macclesfield RSL Sub-Branch.

Welcome

- Good morning ladies and gentleman.
- I would like to congratulate the Macclesfield RSL and the District Council of Mount Barker for their initiative and hard work in creating this magnificent Memorial Garden that will provide a peaceful setting for reflection and solace for the community and a fitting location to honour and commemorate the service and sacrifice of South Australian veterans.
- When I was approached by Dennis six months ago to provide funding for this project, I got a sense of the passion and drive he had to make this initiative a reality. I later visited the sub-branch during Community Cabinet and saw first-hand how the project was progressing.
- I commend the sub-branch for its community engagement program, which has contributed to a significant increase in memberships, now totalling 115 members.

Macclesfield History

- The Macclesfield community has always supported our nation in times of conflict. Since 1854 approximately 350 people from this district have served. This garden will reflect the many facets of Macclesfield's military service, ranging from the Macclesfield Volunteer Rifle Company 1860-1865, the Boer War, local Prisoners of War, Red Cross Nurses, local women in war and contemporary veterans.

Anzac Centenary

- This is an extremely important time in the history of our nation and our state. The next three and a half years offer an opportunity to commemorate Australia's involvement in conflict and the significant contribution South Australians have made during a century of service.
- Over the Centenary of Anzac all Australians will be encouraged to reflect upon and learn more about our military history, and its impact on our community, our state and nation.
- The Anzac Centenary Coordination Unit has commenced work. A state government initiative, the unit will work with state, federal and local government departments and agencies, ex-service organisations, schools and other stakeholders to ensure that South Australia's Centenary of Anzac commemorative program is a success.
- What we see today would not have been possible without the strong support of the Council in providing the land and much of the infrastructure work and a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- During the Centenary of Anzac we will see many more projects like this one, where different tiers of government work in partnership with RSL sub-branches, other ex-service organisations and community groups to commemorate the brave men and women who served.

Conclusion

- Congratulations to all of you that have contributed to making this project a reality. Thank you!