

Fuel for Thought

Anzac Day

It's that time of the year when we take a moment to reflect on those who have served our country, and made great sacrifices on our behalf.

I sometimes try to imagine what it must have felt like here in Gladstone 100 years ago, knowing that so many brave sons and daughters were far from home, in harm's way, and enduring all kinds of hardships.

A letter home from Sergeant J Blythe of Gladstone, in 1917, I think gives us a little glimpse into what the troops endured, along with a sense of their amazing courage and resilience:

"This war has just about got me fixed...I got a pretty hard hit in the side last year and now have trouble with my stomach. No more football for me. And the work will have to be light, but all the same, I think I can fix a few more [of the enemy]."

It is very cold here, with plenty of snow and frost.

I have lost two of my brothers in this war. One at ANZAC and the other last year.

I will be glad when I see the sun again".

J Blythe, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin,
Saturday 26 May 1917.

From all of us at QER, our thoughts are with the fallen, their families and all those whose lives have been forever changed by war.

And our gratitude is with those brave men and women who served in the past, and those serving today.



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