



# SYDNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## WORLD WAR ONE HONOUR BOARD PROJECT

REDEDICATED  
23 NOVEMBER 2018

A Joint Project between Sydney Technical High School  
and the Teachers' RSL Sub Branch

# ROLL OF \$S HONOUR

ALCOCK A. V.  
ALLEN A. R.  
APITZ A. N.  
ARGUE R. P.  
T BARTLOW R. C.  
T BARTROP W. E. G.  
BIBBING C. G.  
BLANTON C. S.  
BRODIE H. H.  
BROOME G. V. E.  
BROWN J. T.  
BROWN T. B.  
BURGESS V. W.  
T CABLE J. T.  
CAMPBELL B. P.  
CARTER A. C. H.  
CHANDLER E.  
T CHANDLER R. C. J.  
CHAPMAN E. L.  
T CHISHOLM C. R.  
COATES E.  
COLVIN W. C.  
COOKSON W. J. M.  
COOPER E. C.  
CORNISH E. W.  
T CORNISH L.  
COX J. S.  
CRAM J.  
CRAM P.  
CULLAM D. W. P.  
DAVIDSON W. J. F.  
DAVIS S.  
DEPLATER R. K.  
DONALDSON R. J.  
DOYLE J. G.  
DUTTON J. T.  
ELPHINSTONE L. H.  
EVANS E. S.

ALBERT W.  
ALLAN A.  
ANDREW T. R.  
ATKINS E. L. M.  
T ATKINS F. W.  
BARBERIE C.  
BARTON B. R.  
T BINNS A.  
BISHOP W. B. S.  
BLACKWOOD L. G.  
BOLTON D. G.  
BONWICK W. H.  
BOOTH D. H.  
BOURNE T. A. D.  
BRAWNE A. G.  
BREAKSPEAR V.  
BROE H. C.  
BROUÉ A. G.  
BROWNING L. K. G.  
BURGESS J. B.  
CALLAN H. R. S.  
CARLSON T.  
CHANDLER S. C.  
CHAPMAN H. E. B.  
COOPER H.  
COULSON W. J.  
COX J. S.  
DALZELL H. J.  
DAY A.  
DOHERTY C. H.  
DOOLEY J. H.  
DUNCAN A. H. W.

AITKEN J. L.  
ANDERSON E.  
ANDREWS R. S.  
ARMSTRONG M. J.  
BEDFORD W. J.  
BELL W. J.  
BLOMFIELD R. G.  
BONSALL G. W.  
BOOTH A. G.  
BROWN H. H.  
CAMERON A. W.  
CAWSEY F. G.  
CHATTO R. H. S.  
CLARK A. J. H.  
COHEN L.  
T COOPER K. J.  
COX L. V. W.  
T DAVIDSON J.  
DIAMOND W. J.  
EDMONDSON A. G.  
ELLIOTT R. C. L.  
T FINLAY W. L.

† FOX H.  
GARTRELL G.  
GETTING F. E.  
GIBSON G. V.  
† GILLIES W. K.  
† GOODE S.  
GORRIE E.  
GOSSLING E.  
GRIFFIN V. C.  
GRIFFITHS C.  
GRIFFITHS H. R.  
HAIN W. J.  
HAMILTON T.  
HANNAM W. G.  
T HARRISON C. H.  
HARVEY T. V.  
HARVEY J. F.  
HENDERSON R. S.  
HIBBLE A. G.  
† HINES H. T.  
HOLLE T. A.  
HOLMES W.  
HUDSON L. E.  
JOHNTSON I. C. R.  
KELLNER O. C.  
KENNEDY R. D. W.  
KERSHAW H. G. A.  
KING V.  
KRANTZCKE R. K.  
KYLE D.  
† LAIRD C. S.  
LAMBERT H. R.  
LAWSON J. G.  
† LAWSON J. G.  
LENEHAN E. B.  
LILJEBLAD V. H. T.  
LUTTON C. G.  
MARGRIE G. J.

T FARNSWORTH S. T.  
FENTON J. W.  
FOLDI K. N.  
FORD E.  
GALLARD E. C.  
GOLDSTEIN O. T.  
GRAHAM W.  
GRANEY C. C.  
GREAVES T. A. R.  
GUY R. R.  
HALL A. J. P.  
HALSTEAD W. H.  
HARVEY J. F.  
HASLER W. E.  
HAGGAARD F. B.  
HAZZARD R. V.  
† HEARD R. F.  
HEPBURN L.  
† HILLS R. B.  
HORNE L.  
HOWE A. L.  
HUSBAND C. H.  
JACKSON F. H.  
JOHNSTON F.  
KELDIE D.  
KIDNER H. S.  
KNOX J.  
LARK C. M.  
LAYTON E. E. T.  
LEAROYD H.  
LINN C.  
LIPSCOMB A. P.

FORD K. H.  
FREEMAN J. S.  
GALLARD E. C.  
GARDYNE D. C.  
GASH L. H.  
GREER R.  
GREIG J. A.  
GRIFFITH C. R.  
HAMILTON J. K. W.  
HAMILTON R. A. P.  
HILLS R. A.  
HOLFORD C. J. S.  
HUNTER W. G.  
HUTCHINSON T. H.  
JACOB N. F.  
JOHNSTON I. C. R.  
KENT S. L. B.  
KIRKBY R. W.  
MACLEAN J. N.  
MAINWARING J.  
MANKTELOW J. R.  
MILLAR C. C.

MASHMAN G. B.  
† MASTON H. W.  
MAZE H. J. R. H.  
McCONNELL J. R.  
McGOWAT J. R.  
McFARLANE B. G.  
McKENZIE W. K. C.  
McMILLAN C. D.  
McNIVEN R. J.  
MILDWATER O. V.  
MILLIGAN E. S.  
† MILLS H. S.  
MOORE H. G.  
MORROW J. D.  
† MOSS E.  
MOUAT R. J.  
MURRO C. E.  
MURRAY H.  
NEAL W. J.  
† NEWCOMB J. A.  
NEWMAN R. E.  
NICHOLAS N. H.  
† NUTTER A. C.  
PACKER C.  
PAGE H.  
PARSONS S.  
PARTON R. E.  
PAUL H. W.  
PERRY H. F.  
† PETERSON D. R.  
PIKE J. W.  
PRICE D. A. C.  
PRIOR C. E.  
PUGHE J. A.  
PYE R. D.  
RAMSAY D. H.  
† REA F. A.  
REID R.

LUKER R. H.  
MACKAY L. A. D.  
MARJUN E. H.  
MARRINER R. J.  
MARSHALL H. S. C.  
MARTIN H. G.  
MASHMAN H. W.  
† MCCABE F.  
McKNIGHT R. D.  
McLAREN W. A.  
McLEAN J. D.  
McLANNAN L. G.  
McNAMARA F. C.  
McNEIR W. H.  
McNIVEN A.  
McNIVEN W. S.  
† McPHEE W.  
HILLWOOD F.  
† MORRIS R. I.  
MORRISON F. R.  
OVERTON H. L.  
† PERCIVAL H. K.  
PERRY C.  
PUECH A. G. G.  
PHILLIPS A. M.  
PHILLIPS D.  
POTTER F. W.  
POWYS L. D.  
PRESTON S. L.  
RAGGATT H. G.  
RALSTON A. J. O.  
RAYMOND J. A.

MOTTERSHEAD R. C.  
† MOULSDALE F. W.  
MUNFORD F. G.  
† OLLIS N. V.  
OWEN S. R.  
PAYTEN R. B.  
† PERRY G. D.  
PHILLIPS R.  
PIKE F.  
POPLE J. C.  
RANDELL L. J.  
SCOTT J. A.  
SIMMONDS J. W.  
SMITH R. E.  
STEEL A. E.  
STOCKHAM C. N.  
SWAIN C. G.  
SYNNOTT R. J. K.  
TEMPLE K. R.  
THOMAS F. D.  
TOMS C. E.  
VACCHINI C. H.

RICE L. T.  
ROBBINS W.  
ROBERTS S. G.  
ROBINSON N. A.  
† ROBSON R. D.  
ROGERS J. A.  
† ROSE W. H. C.  
RUSSELL D. E.  
SAINSBURY R. H.  
† SAINTY F. L.  
SAMUELSON F. A.  
SELKIRK W. G.  
SHALLWOOD H. J.  
SMITH C. E.  
SMITH R. S.  
SMITH T. H.  
STANSBIE W. E.  
STOKES R. C. M.  
TAYLOR J. L.  
THORNTON W. J. B.  
TONKIN G. O.  
† TONKIN W. H.  
WALKER S. B.  
T WATERER A. S.  
WATSON T. S.  
WELCH R.  
WHITE J. J.  
WIGGINS W. O.  
† WILLISON R. E.  
† WOOD K. B.  
WRIGHT W. E.  
WYTHES G. W.  
ALBERT A. C.  
FALCONER W. A.  
FOOTE R.  
FULLER C. E.  
OLIVER R. L.  
PASCOE R. K.

SAINSBURY C. E.  
SHEARING F. A.  
SIDDALL W. T.  
SMALLWOOD E. H.  
SMITH E. J.  
SPARROW W. C.  
SPENCE J. F.  
STEAD G. J.  
STICKLES R.  
STILES A. C.  
STONHAM A. E.  
STUCKEY G. A.  
TAYLOR B. C.  
THOR N. G.  
TONKIN C.  
TOMKINS G. E.  
TULLOCH S. C.  
TURNBULL S. M.  
WARNER L. T.  
† WATSON C. S.  
WELLMAN L. J.  
WELLS R. H. S.  
WENHOLZ L. C.  
WEST C. J. L.  
WILLMOTT L. F.  
WILLS N. V.  
† WILSON W. E.  
WOODBIDGE G. W.  
MARTIN J. B.  
† HUNFORD C. G.  
SMITH G.  
† VERNON A.

WEBBER L. H.  
WHITE J. H.  
WICK A. E.  
WOODBURY L.  
YATES J. W. S.

T: TEACHER

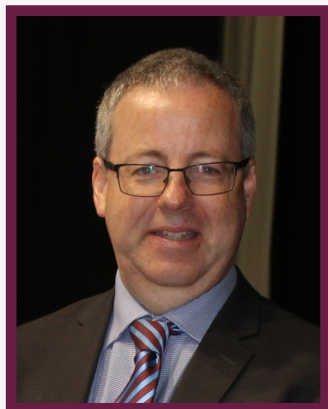
†: DIED DUE TO WAR SERVICE

2018 Honour Board - rededicated on 23 November 2018  
Top panel has names originally dedicated in 1917  
Middle panel has names added at a later date - after 1919  
Lower panel has names added - due to research - in 2018



# INTRODUCTION

In 1914, Australia responded with great enthusiasm to the call to arms by England. Young men were sent to the other side of the world to fight in



Gallipoli, the Somme, Fromelles, Messines, Ypres, Passchendaele, the Middle East and New Guinea. When Australian soldiers died in distant lands families, friends and communities needed a way to remember their loss. The Tech High Journal informed the school of the progress and welfare of students

including those killed in action, the missing and wounded, those who had died of wounds or disease and those who had recovered. This made the loss and suffering of families and friends very visible to the whole community. Groups like Sydney Technical High School (STHS) came together to construct memorials and Honour Boards so that they would have a public place to mourn the loss of this generation of young men. This means that the Sydney Technical High School World War One Honour Board is very important to our collective memory.

Ken Stevenson, Old Boy - Class of 1962, attended the 2016 Anzac Day Assembly and noticed the state of disrepair of the existing Honour Board. On closer examination of the Honour Board he noticed the following four problems:

1. The Honour Board was over 100 years old and the letters of some names were fading and peeling off and the timber on the Board was cracking and opening.
2. Omissions on the original Honour Board revealed that the names of 71 eligible students were not listed.
3. The details of many names already on the Honour Board were not accurately recorded.
4. The original magnificent timber construction of the Honour Board in 1917 had been destroyed to fit extra names onto the Board when it was expanded - some time after 1919.

The Honour Board needed major restoration!

The Sydney Technical High School World War One Honour Board project was a whole school and community endeavour that brought together many gifted and talented people in a common cause of restoring our past. A project of this size and magnitude needed a wide range of people and

organisations to help research, cross reference, apply for funds, endorse, advise, promote and support - especially over the last ten months of the work.

Ken Stevenson and Robert Devlin worked closely with Linda Burney, Federal MP for Barton, and her staff on the initial grant application and then with Department of Veteran Affairs' officials in Canberra to complete the process. Ken and Robert applied to the Armistice Centenary Grants Program from the Department of Veteran Affairs for funding. This was a very lengthy process that took over six months to complete but we were successful in receiving a grant of \$12,770 - the highest grant in the Kogarah electorate.

We attained the much needed endorsement for this project from Chris Minns - State MP for Kogarah, Steven Kamper - State MP for Rockdale, and the Teachers' RSL Sub Branch, that the Department of Veteran Affairs required. The senior executive of the School - Jacqueline Lyons, Diane Wilson and Kirk Grinham - generously supported all aspects of this project with time and advice. In addition, Cheryle Steel coordinated the Elective History Year 9 and Year 10 classes of 2018 to research, write and edit 30 biographies of these former students and teachers so that the wider school community would know of their service. Annette Falconer and her Media Team produced a wonderful video that outlined the scope of the project. Shane Gamage and the Concert Band played beautiful music in keeping with the solemn occasion of the rededication ceremony. Genya Sugowdz liaised with the NSW Premier's Office, Jo Bilton organised the promotion of the project on Facebook, Nathan Brown and the Tech High Times team promoted the project by writing articles and Ian Coulston and the Sound and Lighting Team made sure everything was ready for the assembly. Cheryl Feigen, Susan Cohen, Annette Tant and John Howard helped with the production and printing of the program, updated the guest list, ordered the flowers and the wreaths, decorated the gym for morning tea and made sure everything was in its proper place for the day. Ken and Robert also had an opportunity to promote the project on Ian McNamara's "Australia All Over with Macca" show on ABC Radio. In addition, there was a news article about the project in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everyone, especially the students, who helped and supported this project on its way to completion. This project allows the school to preserve its history so that current and future generations can appreciate the service and sacrifices made to achieve the freedoms and liberties enjoyed by our nation.

**Robert Devlin**  
**Head Teacher History**

## PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH

I warmly welcome the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, to Sydney Technical High School, as well as our distinguished guests and members of our school community past and present.



The purpose of our assembly today is to rededicate the 1914-18 Honour Board. The Board now has accurate names of those students and teachers from our school who served in what

became known as the Great War. Thanks to the inspiring detective work of our World History students, Mr Robert Devlin - Head Teacher History, Ms Cheryle Steel - World History Teacher, and Mr Ken Stevenson - alumnus of 1962, whose research into the board and the compelling narratives behind the names has given insight into the lives of those who have helped shape our school values and history.

When Britain declared war on Germany in 1914 Australia was a dominion of the British Empire, and was thus automatically at war too. Australian responses to the declaration were euphoric, characterised by nationalist rhetoric and patriotism. It was only much later, when the bloodbaths of Gallipoli and the Western Front became widely known, that society looked to apportion blame for the subsequent atrocities.

When war was declared, our school had 11 classes comprising 449 pupils, boys and girls. It was after Gallipoli in 1915 that the school really experienced the impact of the war. Four companies of cadets marched regularly in the Ultimo playground during break times encouraged by staff. They were equipped with rifles, and learnt about armaments, engaged in physical training, learnt how to use a revolver, and practised the bugle. Some, in Third year, on the cusp of 16, enlisted underage in the First Australian Imperial Force without the permission of their families. Others recognised that the technical education in engineering they were undertaking would be valuable for the war effort and filled notebooks with inventive weapons. A number of our teachers enlisted in the forces, those who died are honoured on our board. Many young Tech students went to Gallipoli, the Western Front, New Guinea and Palestine. They are honoured on our Board for their service. Some did not return, many returned home with post-traumatic stress as a result of injury or mustard gas. At the time, the total population of Australia was fewer than five million. 60,000 died, during the war, some buried in unknown graves. 156,000 Australians returned home.

What do those young men have in common with us? Why should we be proud of our fellow teachers and students who share our school motto and three of our core values, respect, responsibility and integrity? We are no longer the homogenous school we were in 1917. Our school is proudly multicultural, and today we are comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and we have as many as 34 different ethnicities between us.



The STHS WWI Roll of Honour.



Peter Jackson, the famous filmmaker of “Lord of The Rings”, has one of the answers. He has spent the last several months restoring 600 hours of First World War film footage from Australian soldiers in the Great War, as part of the commemoration of the 1918 Armistice. What he said in a recent interview should resonate with all of us. 100 years on, close ups taken from film at the time show Australian soldiers as humorous, pragmatic, contemporary and not fundamentally different to us: pictures show the joker, the soldier with anxiety, the leader. Jackson’s insights align with the amazing stories researched by our own students who will share them in a moment. Our shared humanity transcends the century.

Just as over 100 years ago your school forebears made an enormous global contribution for good, you too, are well placed to do the same. Like you, Past Techies come alive in the stories as great fixers, see a problem - give it a go, sort it out. Like you, there is courage, mateship and looking out for each other. Like you they were endowed with special gifts: highly intelligent, creative, and motivated. Our predecessors who fought would recognise our contribution to the White Ribbon Campaign, and other social justice causes dear to us.

There are many reasons why we should be proud of our school traditions and our Honour Board, and hope that those who come to Tech in the years to come will feel the same. We must keep alive the reasons why we fight the good fight, and continue to contribute in every way we can to the good of society.

Commemorating the centenary of the armistice in Paris just two weeks ago, French President Emanuel Macron had words of warning to 60 world leaders about the lessons of the Great War. He warned that we need to take better heed of the lessons from that terrible time to prevent a resurgence of nationalism that isolates countries from each other. He argued “Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism: Nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism when nations put their interests first and decide”, “who cares about the others” they “erase the most precious thing a nation can have ... its moral values”. Let our Honour Board be the touchstone of our moral values, as you look towards becoming world citizens.

Finally, at the Honour Board dedication of 1917 then headmaster J A Williams, for whom I have a lot of respect as an educator, asked Bugler Rupert Donaldson a returned soldier, who enlisted into the Australian Imperial Force from our school, to present the wife of the Minister of Education, with a bouquet. Rupert fought as a 15 year old at Gallipoli and the Western Front and was wounded three times. 101 years on we are honoured to have Rupert’s son, Malcolm Donaldson, with us on stage. Malcolm has brought his father’s bugle that was

reissued to him on the Western Front in 1916 and it will be played today by Bandsman Terry McCleary. I would now like to ask Malcolm to present the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of his father and our school.



On behalf of everyone present, distinguished guests, staff, current and past students across generations, I would like to thank the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, for taking time from her extremely busy schedule to be with us today.

Thank you.

**Jacqueline Lyons**  
**Principal**



**Rupert Donaldson (on right)**  
**Malcolm Donaldson's Father**

## CAPTAIN'S REPORT

On Friday 23 November 2018 – 100 years since the end of the Great War – staff, students and special guests gathered at Sydney Technical High



School to rededicate our World War One Honour Board. Sydney Tech had the pleasure of hosting the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP - Premier of NSW, MAJGEN Paul Irving AM PSM RFD, Anne Ross - Director Educational Leadership, Patrick Medway - President of the Teachers' RSL Sub Branch, Joan Lemaire -

Deputy President of the NSW Teachers' Federation, Alison Wood - Regional General Manager for TAFE NSW Sydney Region, Dorothy Rapisardi - Councillor, Mascot Ward, Bayside Council, Ken Stevenson - Old Boy 1962 and Secretary Teachers' RSL Sub Branch, and Malcolm Donaldson - Son of Old Boy Rupert Donaldson from the Class of 1915. It would be an understatement to say that this day was special for the school, for all those who attended and most importantly, for the memory of those whose names grace the new Honour Board.

Excitement buzzed from the meeting room where all the guests, my fellow Senior Prefects and I waited anxiously for the assembly to begin. I had the pleasure of meeting Malcolm Donaldson, whose father Rupert had served in the war. Malcolm had an endless supply of intriguing and humorous stories about both his and his father's time in the Australian Defence Force. On stage, there was a mix of emotions as we were reminded of the importance of the day. In all honesty, I was very emotional throughout the assembly, thinking about the Techies and Teachers, who had willingly and valiantly sacrificed their lives for those they left behind. When it came to give the Ode to the Fallen, I could feel the service and sacrifice of those who will be remembered, those who we will never forget.

In her speech, our Principal Ms Lyons spoke about the original 1917 Honour Board dedication ceremony in which the Headmaster J A Williams had asked Bugler Rupert Donaldson, a returned soldier who enlisted into the Australian Imperial Force from our school, to present the wife of the Minister of Education, with a bouquet. Rupert fought as a 15 year old at Gallipoli and the Western Front and was wounded three times. The school was honoured to have

Rupert's son, Malcolm Donaldson, with us on stage. The Principal asked Malcolm to present a bouquet of flowers on behalf of his father and our school to the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, to the applause of the audience. Malcolm also brought his father's bugle from the Western Front and it was played by Bandsman Terry McCleary.

We also had the pleasure to hear speeches from the Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, MAJGEN Paul Irving and Old Boy Ken Stevenson. Each speech commemorated the sacrifice made by those Australians who served in the World War One. Their speeches demonstrated the momentous research undertaken to ensure that each and every Techie and Teacher who served received the respect that they so rightly deserve. It was truly moving to be part of an assembly that commemorated and thanked those who served in the Great War. The Elective History students who dedicated their time and effort to painstakingly sift through varying and often conflicting sources to establish the correct history of fallen soldiers must also be commended. It was a colossal task which they completed studiously and effectively. The students' efforts are a true reflection of our core values at Tech – respect responsibility and integrity.

When The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, unveiled the Honour Board, a silence fell over the room as all in attendance stopped to admire it, to respect the golden names that were engraved on the Board. In my opinion, and I am sure I can speak for others, the new Honour Board has been beautifully fashioned to resemble the original Board of 1917. The names of 351 soldiers – all Techies – are now engraved in gold.

Lest we forget.

**Lochie Bown**  
**School Captain 2019**







## WORLD WAR ONE STUDENTS' BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Through consultation with Ken Stevenson, Cheryle Steel and Robert Devlin, the History Faculty devised the STHS World War One Students' Biography Project. The heart of this project was to answer the question 'Can we tell the history of someone who went to STHS over a 100 years ago and remember their service in war?' Students used Ken Stevenson's research as the starting point for their own projects. The project allowed students time to add depth and breadth to their historical knowledge and understanding of the impact of World War One on an individual and their communities. Furthermore, students constructed their projects for publication on the RSL Virtual War Memorial website to be viewed and read by the public, and families of the soldiers, making it an authentic product. Students had their work critiqued by the members of the History Faculty, and they then had an opportunity to reflect on this feedback and make revisions to their task.

So far the school has published 30 biographies of Old Boys and Teachers from the Honour Board on the STHS community page, and on the Virtual RSL War Memorial website with more to come. Students in the Elective History Year 9 and Year 10 classes of 2018 went way beyond our expectations and delivered work that was creative, meticulously researched and honoured the service of former STHS students and teachers.

Students in the Elective History Year 9 and 10 classes were tasked with completing the World War One Honour Board Project. They had to meticulously research their individual, be creative in how they presented their findings and honour the service of former STHS students, teachers and adopted soldiers.



Arthur Sidney Waterer

## SOLDIER PROJECTS

### Arthur Sidney Waterer

I'd like to speak with you today about one of the men represented on our Honour Board, Arthur Sidney Waterer. Arthur Waterer was a teacher of Woodwork at Sydney Technical High School from 1911 until 1928. Waterer enlisted on 17 January 1916 and after training in Britain was assigned the role of Sapper in the 15th Field Company Engineers.

From here he was sent to fight in France and Belgium. Arthur Waterer and his company were deployed to the Ypres sector where he fought at the Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux and at the battle of Saint Quentin Canal, of which this year, 2018, is the centenary. In these battles he fought alongside two Tech students Thomas Hodge Smith and Oswald Mildwater both of whom are recognised on our refurbished Honour Board. His engineering skills made him essential for constructing and maintaining trench systems and for tunneling under enemy fortifications. Both battles were decisive victories for the Allied Forces. During his service he rose to the rank of Sergeant. He served with his company until the armistice when he returned to Australia.

Waterer returned to Sydney Tech and was promoted to Assistant Master of our High School. In his obituary from Fort Street High School, where he worked as an English and History teacher from 1928 until he died in 1937, he is described as having a great impact on both students and teachers. He always had a bright smile on his face - he always greeted every student with a kindly nod - he always cheered on students when their spirits were dampened. He was friendly - positive and helpful. He encouraged every student in his class to think about and discuss important events in history and diplomatic relations because he knew these events would have a direct impact on their future lives. His classes were rich in historic matter, concisely stated facts, and every lesson had its spice of humour. Waterer's teaching life exemplified the very best of public education in Australia. It is with thanks that we remember him today for his service.

**Adrian Lozancic**  
**Year 10 Elective History**





## Rupert John Donaldson

The soldier represented on our Honour Board that I'd like to talk to you about was perhaps the youngest of our soldiers to fight in World War One. Rupert John Donaldson was born on 11 November 1899, in Wunghnu, Victoria. He attended Sydney Technical High School as a student and he once wore the uniform and knew the motto as we all do today. At age 15 Donaldson had light brown hair, blue eyes and was 161 centimetres tall – this would most likely have made him smaller than most of his peers. Donaldson was nicknamed "Squatter" by his father as he was always seen kneeling or squatting by his desk. Donaldson was just like any Techie sitting in this auditorium; played handball, talked to his mates, worried about exams, looked forward to weekly sport, and looked forward to the holidays just like all of us.

He was 15 years old when he enlisted to fight. Only 15 years old. I am 15 years old – and I'm sure I speak for many people in this auditorium when I say that I could never imagine enlisting to fight in World War One. I cannot imagine being on a troop ship with men I'd never met and with no family support. I cannot imagine being in a country like Egypt all by myself, taking in the new sights, smells and peoples. All by myself. I cannot imagine landing on the shores of Gallipoli, not knowing fully what lay ahead but imagining the bombs, the guns, and the fear of death. I cannot imagine sleeping in Shrapnel Gulley, in the cold and terror of war. I cannot begin to fathom the random, senseless deaths that Rupert John Donaldson would have witnessed. If that was not enough, Donaldson was transferred from the shores of Gallipoli to the trenches of the Western Front where he took part in the Battle of Fromelles.

The Battle of Fromelles started on 19 July 1916 and is stated by historians as one of the bloodiest battles Australian troops fought in during the First World War. Rupert Donaldson as a 16 year old was there. Australian and British soldiers fought over open ground in broad daylight and under direct heavy fire from the German lines. Over 5,500 Australians became casualties. Almost 2,000 of them were

killed in action or died of wounds. On 20 July 1916, his official war records show, that Donaldson was shot three times – these bullets went into his upper left leg, his hip and his buttocks. He was transported to England via ship for treatment and he was discharged three months later for return to Australia. He arrived back home in Sydney on 3 December 1916.

Through my research of Rupert John Donaldson, I have come to a greater understanding of the tragedy of war, the sacrifice of individuals, and the true spirit of the first Anzacs. 101 years ago Donaldson participated in the first dedication and Honour Board assembly conducted in this school for the first Anzacs. Today we honour and remember Rupert John Donaldson for his service and sacrifice.

**Eric Napper**  
**Year 10 Elective History**



Rupert Donaldson



L-R: Rupert Donaldson's Great Grandson - James Donaldson,  
Granddaughter - Susan Donaldson,  
Son - Malcolm Donaldson and Eric Napper

## Richard Phillips



As you look up at the Honour Board and read through the names of soldiers who served, you may come across the name Richard Phillips and I'd like to tell you about his story, a story involving our whole school community. As well as teachers and students from Sydney Tech taking part in

the Great War, our school was also involved in a community project to provide housing for returned soldiers. As soldiers returned from war from 1916 and onwards, the Government provided money and access to land at Frenchs Forest as part of what was known as the Soldier Settlement Scheme. This was a combined State and Federal Government effort to recognise the importance of providing both homes and a source of income for returning soldiers through farming the land.

Sydney Technical High School was one of only six schools who were approved to clear land for returning soldiers and was the only school that had both the vision and resolve to sustain their efforts and build an entire home for which they were recognised in the Herald Newspaper. The boys named the house "Techneia" and our students filled the house with essentials and gifts for the soldier who was to occupy it. The returned soldier was Richard Phillips and his family.

Phillips and his family were greatly appreciative of the efforts of Sydney Tech and they were adopted by the school, his name permanently in the school records and his service remembered on our refurbished Honour Board. Philips was born in New Zealand and moved to Sydney with his wife and two sons before World War One. He enlisted for war, in the suburb of Liverpool in Sydney, into the 13th Infantry and 4th Brigade. Mr Phillips participated in the Gallipoli campaigns where he received a large shrapnel wound to his leg.

Richard Phillips 'our soldier' and his family fascinated me because it demonstrated that even in Sydney Tech's infancy our school showed so much camaraderie - what we today would call Tech Pride. The Tech students of 1916 and 1917 worked tirelessly in helping and supporting a family that was going through something most could not imagine. They did this in practical ways that was and is a testament to what our school stands for – care and respect for others and our community, fairness and social justice, and the pursuit of excellence.



'Our Soldier' and his Family

I think the words of a student who participated in building Richard Phillips and his family a home, sum it up best: "We are not assisting these soldiers, we are repaying the debt we owe them..."

**Huy Nguyen**  
**Year 9 Elective History**



The House the Students Built - Techneia - for the Phillips Family



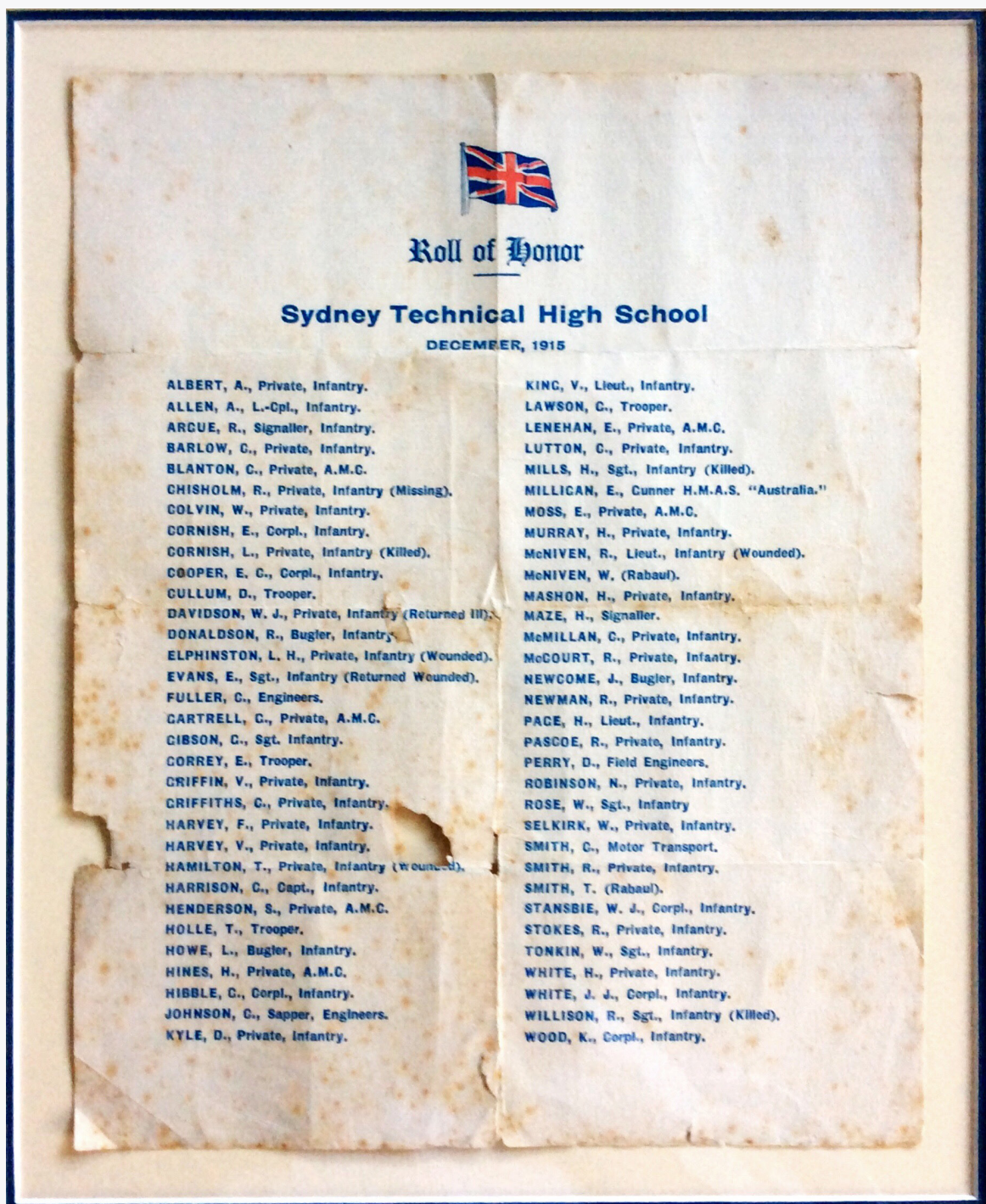
## ROBERT DEVLIN INTRODUCES KEN STEVENSON

Principal, distinguished guests, Old Boys, Teacher RSL members, staff and students - thank you for the opportunity to introduce Ken Stevenson to this assembly on this prestigious occasion.

Over the last two years I have worked closely with Ken on this project. Ken's vision was to have a complete and accurate World War One Honour Board that commemorates the service of all past students and teachers of Sydney Technical High School. This

vision has been achieved. As a History teacher I have been very fortunate to be a part of this project and greatly appreciate Ken's knowledge, skills and generosity. His research skills are exemplary and he has the ability to tease out historical details from the most obscure sources. Ken has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all 351 students and teachers on the Honour Board. It has been Ken's determination and enthusiasm over the past two years that has driven this project forward. This has even extended to visiting the National Archives offices interstate to verify the accuracy of names on the Board.

It is my pleasure to thank Ken for his service to the school and to welcome him to address this assembly.



1915 Roll of Honour



# RENOVATING THE WORLD WAR ONE HONOUR ROLL

Charles Bean was an Australian war correspondent in World War One and after the War, he wrote the official Australian history of the conflict. He was



no sidelines observer – he embedded himself with the troops and shared their privations. He went ashore at the landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, and from then to the Armistice on 11 November 1918 - he saw it all.

In July and August 1916 at the Battle of Pozieres he saw 23,000 Australian

casualties in six weeks. In this battle, a wounded dying soldier looked up and asked of him, “Will they remember me in Australia?”

We are here today to keep the faith which Charles Bean expressed in his response to the soldier. The early students and staff of this school remembered those who served and kept the faith. The Technical High Journal of those early years repeatedly tells of students returning from the Front visiting the school, talking with Headmaster Williams and bearing news of fellow students.

Rupert Donaldson was one such student - he left school and enlisted at age 15 with his parents’ permission. As he was walking up the gangplank on 9 August 1915 to board the troopship



CAPT Charles Henry Harrison

HMAT Runic he heard a voice behind him saying: “Donaldson, what are you doing here?” It was his English teacher, Charles Harrison, who had enlisted to fight and was also on the same troopship! “Same as you sir, fighting for Australia!”

was his confident response. Rupert was repatriated in 1917, wounded in three places.

“The Sun”, Thursday 24 May 1917, tells of the dedication of the first Honour Board. An honour roll bearing the names of 152 old scholars who have gone to the war was unveiled. The decorated school assembly room was crowded with parents, scholars, and near relatives of those who were

being honoured. The Principal, J A Williams, after welcoming the guests, asked Bugler Rupert Donaldson, a returned soldier, who had stepped straight from the school into the AIF, to present Mrs James with a charming bouquet. Young Donaldson was wildly cheered.

Well may we say today, “Donaldson, what are you doing here?” For we are privileged to have Rupert Donaldson’s son, Malcolm here on stage today. And the bugle being played by Bandsman Terry McCleary is Rupert’s 1916 bugle. We are so privileged to have Malcolm and his family here with us today.

We also read in the “Evening News” of the same day that the Board was mounted in the Turner Hall at Sydney Technical College, which is where Sydney Technical High School began its life in 1909, as part of the Sydney Technical College. And this is why Ms Alison Wood, Sydney Regional Director of TAFE is here in the official party today.

In later years we read from the “Evening News” of 27 December 1919:

During woodwork, teacher Arthur Waterer’s absence (fighting in the War) Arthur G Humphreys was in charge of the woodwork shop, and the cottages at Frenchs Forest and at Bexley are monuments to his self sacrifice in the interests of the school. The Honour Board was designed and made by him, and is one of the school’s most treasured possessions.

It is indeed a treasured possession.

I have been very privileged to learn about and work on this most treasured possession over the past four years.

## Physical Condition of the Board

101 years produce obvious signs of age – even in a treasured possession – and the Board was showing her age.



Paul Jordan restored the Board



In deciding to refurbish the Board, the school committee and I also decided to restore the magnificence of the original woodwork in the 1917 format. The side columns, the finials and top capping were destroyed by someone in the 1920s when the original Board was extended to accommodate an extra 128 names. It is easy to see what happened when you look at the photos in the program. The glory has been restored.

We have taken a liberty – and hope that history will judge us kindly – in placing a small cross next to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice (40 of them) – and a “T” for teacher – these were not present on the original Boards.

We have also put the names into correct alphabetical order in each section – Milligan now follows Margrie and Luker now follows Lipscomb!

### **Inaccuracy in the Original 280 Names**

This was most concerning and often involved correcting of the spelling of a family name, addition of the initials of personal names and both. The committee decided that if a man was willing to give up years of his normal life, with the possibility of physical and mental disorder and even death, then it is appropriate to spell his name correctly and give his full initials.

My strategy was to establish the integrity of each name on the Board.

First I attempted to determine whether each name was a genuine student at STHS. To achieve this I mainly used the class mark registers, which start in 1911 and are held in the STHS Library Archives, but searches of newspapers online (Trove) and other databases were useful.

Secondly I then attempted to discover the service record associated with each name and answer the question: “Does each name have a genuine service record in the Australian Army (AIF), Navy, Munitions Service or any other area?”

The committee agreed unanimously that if a name on the Board could not be verified as a genuine student or have genuine military service then the name would still remain on the Board – and we did not have the right to remove such names. This principle proved to be correct in practice. Just three days before the rededication ceremony, MILLWOOD, E, on the Board with no known linkages became identified as Edward MILLWOOD of Class 1C in 1914 and 2C in 1915, who had joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1917.

There are about 20 names which the early school placed on the board which did not have the linkage between school and service sufficiently validated but I am confident they will be found.

Consider the Board entry of PEUCH, A. This family name was spelled wrongly hence making it impossible to find war service records for him. Using the Class Marks Registers in the school library archive, it showed his name is spelled PUECH. Further research online showed his full name to be PUECH, A G G (André Georges Gilbert). His family had migrated from France and he returned to fight with the French Army, which is why there were no Australian service records for him. But we tracked him down!

### **Absence of Military Service Records**

STUCKEY, G A is such a name on the Board without active service records. (He is also on the Leaving Certificate board as gaining equal first place in 1915.) Research in the Sydney University archives showed (whilst studying Engineering) that he joined the University Regiment and in September 1918 enlisted for overseas service. He entered the Liverpool training camp but was discharged in November 1918 because of the Armistice. He became Dr John Bradfield’s (Sydney Harbour Bridge) chief engineering assistant checking all calculations and quotations.

What this example shows is that the creators of the original Boards had an eclectic view – that inclusion on the Boards did not come by actually leaving Australia – but that enlistment and willingness to serve was sufficient.

### **Names Missing from the Original Boards**

It has been a great emotional experience for me to be able to provide 71 new names to be rightfully added to the Board – in the third (bottom) panel – and we salute them, at last, after 101 years. These names have been sourced from:

- Painstaking comparison of each student name in the school marks registers, and then making comparison with National Archives service records
- Examination of the Sydney Technical College admissions register of bursary and scholarship holders for 1909-1912 at the State Records and Archives facility at Kingswood. This provided names of those who came to Tech High when it was controlled by the Sydney Technical College, not by the Education Department.

All of these additions have been verified by an independent genealogist/researcher.

## Biographies

As well as corrections and additions, the committee was concerned to provide the stories that accompany each name – to make their names live on. Even as we gather here, the information we have collected is being used to populate the following sites:

- The RSL Virtual War Memorial (housed in South Australia).
- The NSW State Government Register of War Memorials (administered by the State Library of NSW).

There are amazing stories on this Board. We found a pioneer submariner - Frank Getting; a pioneer officer in New Guinea who opened up the unknown tribal area of the Wahgi Valley in 1930 - James Taylor; a pioneer missionary in Tanganyika - Harold Kidner; pioneer aviators - Harold Overton (Richmond State Aviation School) and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith; and men who suffered greatly due to the effects of war.

It is a tribute to Robert Devlin's excited engagement and his encouragement of the history classes here at STHS that students are carrying on this task of understanding the lives of these men.

No matter what our family background is, we have all inherited the Australia for which these names made their various sacrifices.

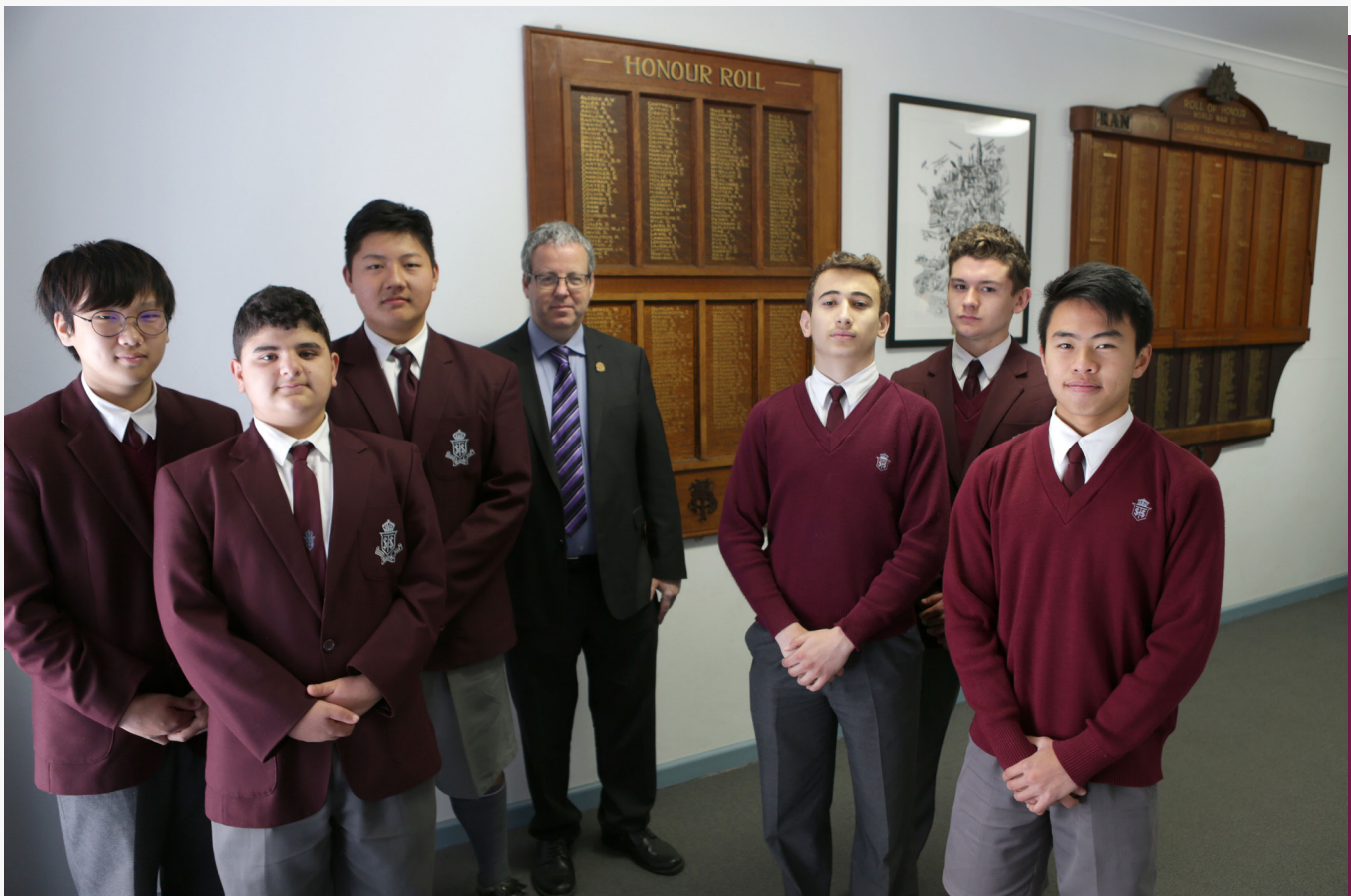
This most treasured possession is now bequeathed to the staff and students of the current generation.

Every time you are in this auditorium and these beautiful golden names reach out from the dark timber, remember the young boys, men and gifted teachers who gave their golden lives in that time of darkness called the Great War – for us, for you.

Lest we forget.

**Ken Stevenson**

**Old Boy 1962 and Researcher**



Students from the 2018 Year 10 World History Class - Leslie Sohn, Bilal Ibrahim, Han Bao, Muhamed Kumsuz, Eric Napper and Dylan Alima - with Teacher, Robert Devlin



# HONOUR ROLL

ALCOCK, A.V.  
ALLEN, A.R.  
APITZ, A.  
ARCUE, R.  
BARLOW, R.  
BARTROD, W.  
BIBBING, C.  
BLANTON, C.S.  
BRODIE, H.  
BROOME, C.  
BROWN, J.T.  
BROWN, T.B.  
BURCESS, V.  
CABLE, J.T.  
CAMPBELL, B.P.  
CARTER, C.  
CHISHOLM, R.  
CHANDLER, E.  
CHANDLER, R.  
CHAPMAN, L.  
COATES, E.  
COOPER, E.C.  
COLVIN, W.  
CORNISH, E.  
CORNISH, L.  
GRAM, J.  
GRAM, P.  
COOKSON, M.  
COX, J.  
CULLEN, D.  
DAVIDSON, W.J.F.  
DAVID, S.  
DONALDSON, R.  
DOYLE, J.G.  
DUTTON, J.  
ELPHINSTONE, L.H.  
EVANS, E.  
FOX, H.

CARTRELL, C.  
OKTING, F.  
GIBSON, G.  
GILLIES, W.K.  
GOODE, S.  
CORRIE, E.  
GOSSLING, C.  
GRIFFIN, V.  
GRIFFITHS, C.  
GRIFFITHS, H.  
HAIN, W.  
HAMILTON, T.  
HANNAM, W.  
HARVIE, F.  
HARVEY, T.V.  
HARRISON, C.H.  
HENDERSON, S.  
HOLLE, T.  
HOLMES, W.  
HUDSON, L.  
HINES, H.  
HIBBLE, A.G.  
JOHNSON, C.  
KELLNER, O.  
KENNEDY, R.D.W.  
KERSHAW, H.  
KING, V.  
KRANTZKE, R.  
KYLE, D.  
LAIRD, S.P.  
LAMBERT, H.  
LAWS, F.  
LAWSON, C.  
LENEHAN, E.  
LILJEBLAD, V.  
LUTTON, C.  
MASTON, H.  
MASHMAN, G.

MAZE, H.  
MILDWATER, O.  
MILLS, H.  
MILLIGAN, E.  
MARGRIE, J.  
MOSS, E.  
MOUATT, R.  
MURRAY, H.  
MOORE, O.  
MORROW, J.D.  
MUNRO, R.  
MC CONNELL, J.R.  
MCFARLANE, B.  
MCKENZIE, W.K.C.  
MCNIVEN, R.  
MCMILLAN, C.  
MCCOURT, R.  
NEAL, W.  
NEWCOMBE, J.  
NEWMAN, R.  
NUTTER, A.  
NICHOLAS, H.  
PAGE, H.  
PARSONS, S.  
PARTON, R.E.  
PAUL, M.  
PACKER, C.  
PERRY, H.  
PETERSON, D.  
DEPLATER, R.  
PIKE, J.  
PRIOR, C.  
PUCHE, J.  
PYE, R.  
PRICE, D.C.  
RAMSAY, D.  
REA, F.  
REID, ROY

RICE, L.  
ROBBINS, W.  
ROBERTS, S.  
ROBSON, R.  
ROBINSON, N.  
ROGERS, J.  
ROSE, W.  
RUSSELL, D.E.  
SAINSBURY, R.  
SAMUELSON, F.  
SELKIRK, W.C.  
SMALLWOOD, H.  
SMITH, C.  
SMITH, ROY.  
SMITH, T.H.  
SAINTY, F.  
STANSBIE, W.J.  
STOKES, R.  
TONKIN, O.  
TONKIN, W.  
TAYLOR, J.  
THORNTON, W.  
WATERER, A.  
WATSON, T.S.  
WALKER, S.  
WELCH, R.  
WHITE, J.J.  
WILLISON, R.  
WIGGINS, W.  
WOOD, K.  
WRIGHT, W.  
WYTHES, G.W.  
ALBERT, A.  
FALCONER, W.  
FULLER, C.  
FOOTE, R.  
OLIVER, R.  
PASCOE, R.

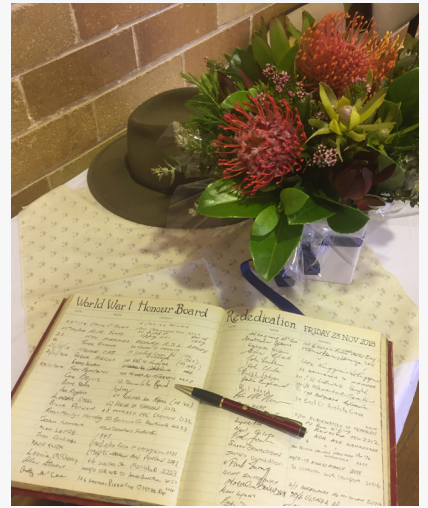
ALBERTS, W.  
ALLAN, A.  
ANDREWS, T.  
ATKINS, E.  
ATKINS, F.W.  
BARBERIE, C.  
BARTON, B.  
BINNA, A.  
BISHOP, W.B.  
BOLTON, D.O.  
BOOTH, D.H.  
BONWICK, W.  
BROUE, A.J.  
BROE, H.  
BOURNE, T.  
BRAWNE, A.C.  
BROWNING, L.  
BREAKSPEN, V.  
BURGESS, J.B.  
BLACKWOOD, L.O.  
CALLEN, S.  
CARLSON, T.  
CHANDLER, S.C.  
CHAPMAN, H.  
COOPER, H.  
COULSON, W.J.  
COX, J.J.  
DALZELL, H.  
DAY, A.  
DOOLEY, J.  
DONERTY, C.  
LINN, C.

DUNCAN, A.  
FARNEWORTH, S.  
FENTON, J.W.  
FOLDI, K.  
FOOTE, R.  
FORD, E.  
GALLARD, E.  
GOLDSTEIN, O.O.  
GRAHAM, W.  
GRANEY, C.C.  
GREAVES, T.  
GUY, R.  
HARVEY, J.F.  
HASEMER, W.  
HAUGAARD, F.B.  
KAZARD, B.  
HEBBURN, E.  
HALL, A.J.  
HALSTEAD, W.  
HEARD, R.  
HILLS, R.  
HOWE, L.  
HUSBAND, C.  
HORNE, L.  
JACKSON, F.H.  
JOHNSTON, F.  
KEDDIE, D.  
KIDNEY, H.S.  
KNOX, A.  
LARK, C.M.  
LAYTON, E.  
LUKER, B.H.

LIPSCOMBE, A.  
LEAROLD, H.  
MACKAY, L.A.  
MARLAUN, E.  
MASHMAN, H.  
MARRINER, R.  
MARSHALL, H.  
MARTIN, H.  
MILLWOOD, E.  
MORRIS, R.I.  
MORRISON, F.R.  
MCCABE, F.  
MCKNIGHT, R.D.  
MCLAREN, W.A.  
MCLAREN, J.  
MCLENNAN, L.  
MCNAMARA, C.  
MCNIECE, W.H.  
MCNIVEN, A.  
MCNIVEN, W.  
MCPHEE, W.  
OVERTON, H.J.  
PERCIVAL, H.K.  
PERRY, C.  
PEUGH, A.  
PHILLIPS, A.  
PHILLIPS, D.  
POTTER, F.W.  
POWYS, L.D.  
DREYTON, S.L.  
TALSTON, A.J.  
TADGATT, H.

RAYMOND, J.A.  
SAINSBURY, C.E.  
SHEARING, F.A.  
SIDDALL, W.T.  
SMALLWOOD, H.  
SMITH, E.J.  
SPARROW, W.C.  
SPENCE, J.F.  
STILES, A.C.  
STICKLES, R.  
STONHAM, A.  
STUCKEY, G.A.  
STEAD, O.  
TAYLOR, B.H.  
THOM, N.O.  
TONKIN, C.  
TONKINS, C.  
TULLOCH, S.O.  
TURNBULL, S.  
WARNER, L.T.  
WATSON, C.  
WELLMAN, L.  
WELLS, R.  
WEST, L.  
WILLMOTT, L.  
WILSON, W.E.  
WOORBRIDGE, G.  
WILLS, N.  
WENTHOLD, J.  
MARTIN, J.B.  
MUMFORD, C.  
SMITH, G.  
VERNON, A.









## NEW IDEALS FROM WAR

### Honor Roll Unveiled

An honor roll bearing the names of 132 old scholars who have gone to the war was unveiled at the Sydney Technical High School this morning by the Minister for Education (Mr. James). The decorated school assembly room was crowded with parents, scholars, and near relatives of those who were being honored.

The principal, Mr. J. A. Williams, after welcoming the guests, asked Bugler Rupert Donaldson, a returned soldier, who had stepped straight from the school into the A.I.F., to present Mrs. James with a charming bouquet. Young Donaldson was wildly cheered.

The Minister said that hitherto Australians had been proud of their cricket elevens, football fifteens, and eight-oar crews, and of the schools that had produced them. The stress of war had given them new standards. They saw the Imperial spirit right through the Empire, and with it they thought of the small nations, and were prepared to fight for them. The boys of to-day could realise what a great Empire was, and it was for them to see that the highest ideals were preserved. They should now form the character which would develop Australia after the war. He congratulated the school on its fine body of cadets. He was proud that the school had responded so nobly to the call of Empire. They had shown that they could do something more than play games or lean against posts. (Cheers.) In unveiling the roll of honor he urged everyone to remember the dependents of those who had fallen, and to do everything possible for those who should return wounded.

The names are inscribed in gold upon an oaken tablet, which was made by Mr. Humphrey, the school's instructor in woodwork. The Principal announced that the supreme sacrifice had been made by Hessel Mills, Lawrence Cornish, Stanley Goode, Keith Wood, Richard Chander, and Robert Willison.

The audience stood with bowed heads while "The Last Post" was sounded by two trumpeters.

Before the Minister left he was presented by the principal with an inlaid revolving bookcase, an excellent piece of work by W. Thorpe and C. Bennett, two pupils about 14 years of age.

Addresses were delivered by Mr. Nangle (Superintendent of Technical Education) and the Rev. Canon Charlton. Appropriate musical selections were rendered.

New Ideals from War  
The Sun - Thursday 24 May 1917







**Sydney Technical High School Rifle Club 1914**



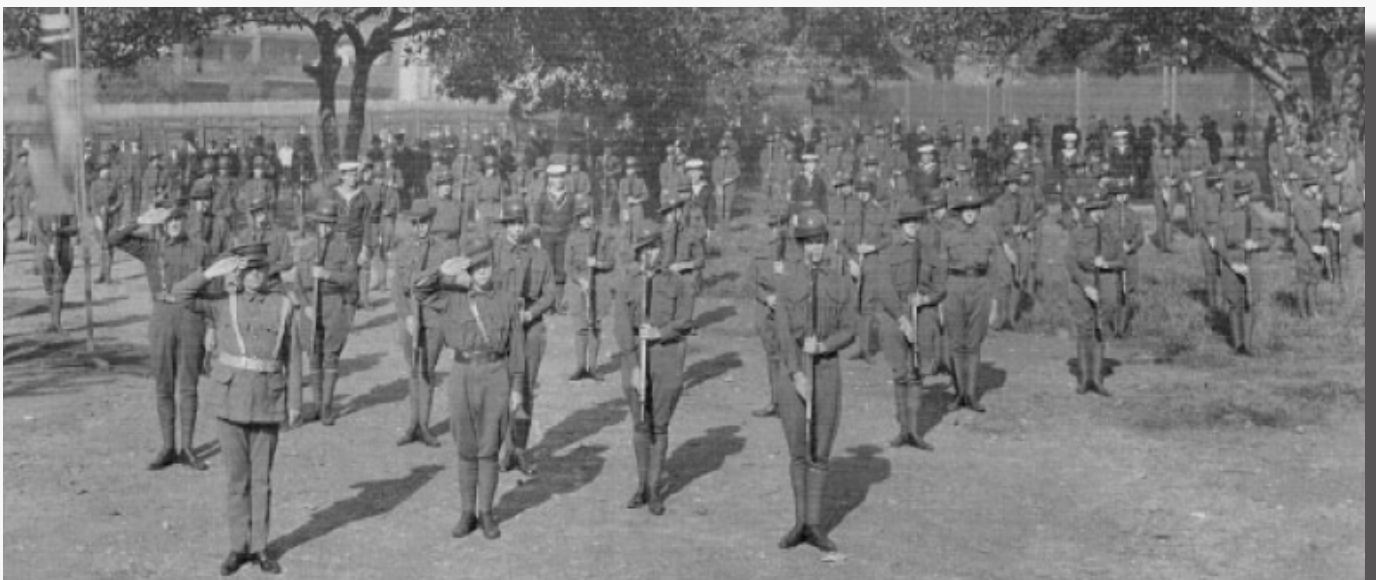
**LT William H Tonkin BA BSc**  
Assistant Science Master at THS 1911-1914  
who was killed in action in France 1917



**Cyril Sainsbury**  
1912 Class 1E Builder and Architect



**William H McNeice**  
Technical Day School 1909, Surveyor  
1917 Wedding



**Empire Day 1915**



## MAJGEN PAUL IRVING AM PSM RFD SPEECH

MAJGEN Paul Irving AM PSM RFD is a former Army Reserve Signals Officer who rose to command the 8th Signals Regiment, the 8th Brigade and the 2nd Division. In civilian life, he was a senior human resources manager in the NSW Public Service who became an Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Corrective Services. He is a Vice President of the Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW Military, National



President of the Defence Reserves Association and Representative Colonel Commandant of the Signal Corps.

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and, most importantly, students of this prestigious high school with such a proud history, thank you for inviting me to speak at this rededication of your World War One Honour Board.

For many years, I was the general manager of personnel in the Department of Education and we spent a lot of resources updating the various honour boards then held in Head Office in Bridge Street and now in the Department's new Head Office at Parramatta. I also had the pleasure a few years ago of attending the rededication service of the World War One Honour Boards in Bridge Street. Just 12 days ago, at services right around Australia, we remembered the 100th anniversary of the armistice on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

After over four years of slaughter and mayhem, the guns on the Western Front finally fell silent. The scale of the Great War, as it became known, was unprecedented. It was truly a world war. Some 70 million people were mobilised across many nations. Its violence shattered great empires. It was estimated that 13 million people died, nine million of them combatants. The war was industrial in both scale and technology, with new weapons such as machine guns, poisonous gases, aeroplanes and advances in artillery that gave the war a ferocity that was directed against the frailty of the human body. It was a war that was a mad, brutal, awful struggle where the waste of human life was so terrible that victory was often barely discernible from defeat.

In 1915, Australia had a population of just four million people. Yet over 400,000 Australian men volunteered for service in the war, roughly half of those eligible. Australians served overseas and 61,514 died, which was a little less than one man in five. Around 155,000 Australians suffered casualties. About two thirds of all Australians who



CAPT Ronald McNiven (Chemistry teacher at STHS and Lecturer Sydney Technical College) - back row second from right - in training with other officers from the University of Sydney in 1915

went overseas were casualties, the highest rate of the then British Empire. These grim statistics meant that only one man out of three Australians who went into war came through it unscathed, at least physically. Unlike Britain, New Zealand and Canada who all had conscription, we had a completely volunteer army. Whether it was the adventure of war, or the opportunity to see new lands, or the duty to king and country or because the soldiers received six bob a day - equivalent now of 60 cents a day - an attractive wage in those days, we will never know why those men, like those 351 men now listed on your rededicated Honour Board, volunteered to join the first Australian Imperial Force and go to war.

These ordinary men performed extraordinary deeds - enduring a constant state of siege where they were aware that they were being gradually, but deliberately, wiped out in that war of attrition. Yet they never faltered - they went over the top of the trenches, when ordered, time and time again. This Honour Board recognises the 351 students, former students and teachers who enlisted during the Great War. Sadly, 40 never returned. We may never know how many of these students and teachers returned with severe mental illnesses and wounds that meant they were never able to fulfil their potential and unable to cope with living in post war Australia. There was hardly an Australian family untouched by the great war - grieving went on throughout the length and breadth of the land for many years after the war had ended. Imagine what it was like to lose a son, brother, father, husband or uncle in such circumstances in countries that were largely unknown. In thousands of cases, there was no known grave on which grief could be focussed, no funeral to attend where family members could share each other's grief, and no closure.

Thousands of women were left without husbands. Families were left to cope with soldiers crippled by wounds, and to deal - at times - with violent behaviour from shell shock victims, or to financially

cope with the fact that some men would never work again. Every one of those who died or whose life was cut short had a family - they never had the chance to grow old, or to watch those dear to them grow old. These Australians who served in the Great War were not just names on honour boards like this one at the school, but each one had a story.

The really wonderful thing with the work of the students and others over the past four years in researching the members of the school who served, is that through your research of their stories you have brought to life that particular student or teacher. There are 351 stories to be told of ordinary men performing extraordinary deeds in the most appalling circumstances.

I look forward to hearing some of these stories later this morning. It is indeed fitting that all staff, students and former students who served in the Great War over 100 years ago and who have not been honoured by the school should now be so honoured. I expect that the families of these men, some of whom are here today, will be extremely grateful for the hard and dedicated work involved in tracking down all those men from this fine school and bringing their stories to life.

This rededicated board and the stories of the men who served will be a constant reminder, to all of the students who attend this school, of the honour and respect we owe these men for their supreme sacrifices.

Thank you.

Lest we forget.

**MAJGEN Paul Irving AM PSM RFD**



Badges of the Technical Day School and Sydney Technical High School

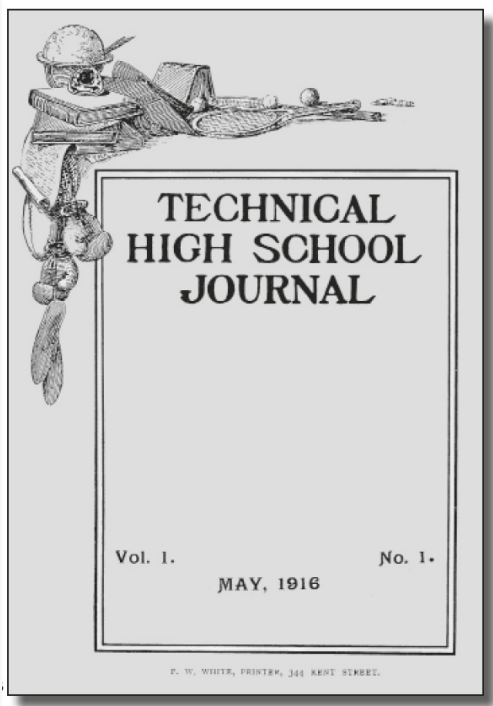




**Russell Pye - Class 1A 1912,  
Intermediate Certificate 1913, Engineer**



**The Kaiser—"Oh! Why did I launch this Boat."**  
A Comment by A Murch in the 1916 Journal



**Frank Edmund Getting,  
Pioneer Australian Submariner Class 1C, 1912**



**School Assembly in 1917 marking the Third Anniversary of the War**







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The Georges River Council

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader

Ian McNamara - ABC Presenter

Parents and Citizens Committee - Sydney Technical High School

Julie Carrington - Science Teacher

Bandsmen Terry McCleary and Ian Stenning, NSW Fire and Rescue Band - Buglers

Alan Gowan and Troy Neate - Technology Teachers

Ian Coulston - Technology Teacher and Sound and Lighting Team Coordinator

Ceremony Participants - Lochie Bown, Jackson Fisher, Evan Giannoulas, Ahmed Hijazi, James Kapaniris,  
Christian Manu, Nehal Nafcy, Adam Robey, Tim Tjugito

Year 9 World History Class - Michael Ahmad, Mahdi Alawie, Darren Chen, Zachary Favorito,  
Mahmoud Hamade, Alastair Ho, Zubair Hossain, Eugene Hui, Anthony Kourtis, Marco Lam, Sadek Medlej,  
Daniel Nemani, Huy Nguyen, Adrian Pasha, Thien Pham, Isaac Situ, Tahmid Taha, John Vassiliadis,  
Matthew Zeaiter, Kerry Zhao

Year 10 World History Class - Dylan Alima, Han Bao, Nathan Hartono, Bilal Ibrahim, George Kekatos,  
Muhammed Kumsuz, Jonathan Lei, Adrian Lozancic, Eric Napper, Leslie Sohn, Carlos Tse,  
Dinitha Weeraman, Daniel Yu

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