

# Noosa Chorale Tune in

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

Volume 12, Number 7, October 2018

## War and peace ...

Sunday, November 11, will mark 100 years since the guns on the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare and Noosa is observing this historic anniversary with a Centenary of Armistice Service in Tewantin Town Square.

The Service starts at 10.40am and will be followed at 12.15pm by the Looking Forward to Peace concert organised by Noosa Council in the adjacent Memorial Park.

Noosa Chorale has been invited to sing at the start of the four-hour event which will also include performers like the nine-piece Andrews Sisters Tribute Band.

“The Chorale is greatly honoured to be part of this unique commemoration,” Chorale President Gai Ramsay told Tune In.

“We are singing a medley of war songs called ‘Tunes from the Trenches’ and during our performance, boats from the Peace Flotilla will pass Memorial Park and head down Noosa River to disband at The

Boathouse Restaurant.

“This is a re-enactment of 1918 when Tewantin locals celebrated the end of the war on Noosa River with their boats decked in patriotic colours.

“The boats will be escorted by Coast Guard Noosa and I believe more than 25 boat owners have registered with the Council to take part.

“Just after we finish our medley, a vintage Tiger Moth will fly over the park. I’m looking forward to it. It’s going to be a memorable day.”

**“Our WWI stories of heroism and tragedy” — Chorale singers tell their family stories. See over...**



The 1918 Peace Flotilla on Noosa River — how Tewantin locals celebrated the end of the war.

## ... and joy !

Noosa Chorale  
OUR 11TH ANNUAL  
WASSAIL  
Christmas cheer concert  
Joy TO THE World  
FEATURING JOYOUS CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
AUDIENCE SING-A-LONG  
BEAUT RAFFLE PRIZES  
THE J THEATRE  
60 NOOSA DRIVE NOOSA HEADS  
Tewantin Community Bank® Branch  
Bendigo Bank

You'll be bursting with joy when you're part of the Christmas fun at Noosa Chorale's "Wassail." Joy is the theme for this year's extravaganza of carols and glorious music highlighted by Beethoven's inspirational "Ode to Joy."

Join the Chorale in singing traditional carols like "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" all the while enjoying hearty Christmas Cheer cake, mince pies and cheese platters.

This is the choir's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Wassail. It's eagerly anticipated and a packed J Theatre is expected again this year. We recommend you book early for Noosa's Christmas Party of the Year.

December 14 and 15 @ [www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au)

**BOOK NOW**  
CLICK HERE

# Our WWI stories of heroism and tragedy

It will be a time for reflection for four Noosa Chorale singers when the choir performs in the Looking Forward to Peace event at Tewantin Memorial Park on Sunday November 11 from 12noon—4pm.

The Chorale has been invited to open the concert with the “Tunes from the Trenches” medley of popular WWI songs, some jaunty, some poignant, some downright satirical.

The thoughts of sopranos Fran Wilson, Joy Heffernan, alto Cal Webb and tenor Des Storer will be with family members who went to war and came home as heroes or stayed in unknown graves.



Noosa Chorale singers (l to r): Joy Heffernan, Des Storer, Fran Wilson, Cal Webb

## Fran Wilson

“My great uncle Henry Philip Norman Dixon fought in the Somme in WW1. Like thousands of others his body was never found. I saw his name engraved on a memorial at Thiepval in the Somme last year when we went there.



Henry Philip Norman Dixon

It was a very sombre and moving experience. I have a wonderful letter from the Colonel to his father alerting him that Henry was missing and speaking of his bravery in the face of certain death. He was only 25.”

‘Dear Mr Dixon,

Your name has been given to me as the next of kin of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. H.P.N Dixon, and I expect you are his father. You will have heard before now that he is missing and I sincerely hope that he is a prisoner either wounded or unwounded.

It happened as follows. On the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept his platoon was to take a troublesome piece of the enemy trench, his platoon went over the top in fine style, but met considerable opposition before the trench was reached, your

boy has not been heard of since.

*I sympathize with you most sincerely & wish I could give you more information but there is no more to be said. I think there is every possibility that he has not been killed but I realize full well what an anxious and trying time it will be waiting & hoping for news of him.*

*Whatever has happened you will be proud to know that he went forward & never hesitated, a fine example to his men which will not be forgotten.’*

“Our visit to the Somme in 2017 was moving and poignant and will stay with me always. It was hard to imagine the serene and beautiful landscape as it would have been in 1916.”

## Des Storer

“My grandfather, Arthur Dudley York Andrews, my mother’s father, enlisted for service abroad, in Fremantle in August 1915.

He had come as a 21-year-old travelling across from the Grange in South Australia with other farmers and horsemen to enlist.

He joined the 16th Battalion and after initial training in WA was sent to Egypt, arriving at Tel-el-Kabir in March, 1916.

Soon he was transferred to the Western Front in France in August, where he was wounded in action and suffered severe shell shock over the rest of 1916.



Arthur Dudley York Andrews

He contracted severe trench foot and by December he had to be shipped for treatment from Le Havre to the Southampton General Hospital.

Whilst in England, after hospital, he spent some time at a Company Depot

in Hurdcott where he qualified as a 1st Class Signaller.

He returned to active duty with the 16th Battalion in France in August 1917.

After 3 months, back in the trenches, he was again sent back to Southampton Hospital with a recurrence of trench foot, this time with severe trench fever and chronic dermatitis which was to remain with him for the rest of his life.

On return to Australia later in 1919, he returned to being a small farmer and stockman, in Corrigin in the wheat belt of WA. He married my grandmother in 1922 (she was 15 and he was 27). My mother was born the next year, quickly followed by her six brothers.”



## Joy Heffernan

“Grandfather Frank Roy Blandford was very distressed when his application to join the army was refused. His five other brothers had successfully enlisted. As he lived on the land, the Government said he had to stay at home and keep the farm going - build up his farm, get married and start a family.

Woodgate, Roy’s older brother, was wounded in action in France. Reuben and Clarence came home.

Leslie was 23 years old when he enlisted in January of 1915 and was sent to Gallipoli.

By August Leslie was KIA (killed in action), ‘final resting place unknown’. You can imagine how awful that was for their family. He is listed (according to ‘Find a Grave’) on Panel 45 at Lone Pine Cemetery and Memorial.

William enlisted in July 1915. He was the baby of the family and had recently turned 18. It took 17 months for William to embark and in that time William and Isabella Ruth Tait were married.

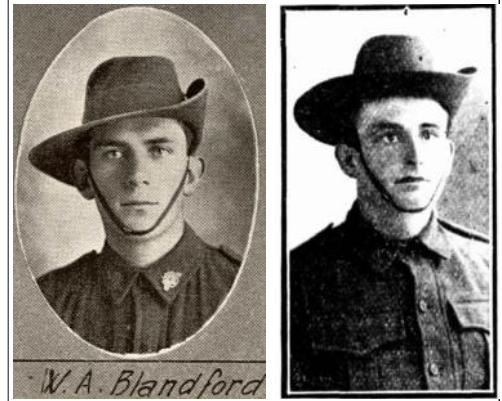
On December 11, 1916, William left for France on HMAT Demosthenes. Four days later baby Alan was born.

On October 1, 1918, William was KIA—just 41 days before Armistice.

William’s gravesite can be found at Bellicourt British Cemetery, Picardie, France.

The death of these two brothers was so tragic and such a great loss to their family.

Grandfather Roy Blandford is Russell, my husband’s grandfather. When Russ was a boy he used to stay with his grandparents on the sugar cane farm in Yandina, I think it was. Grandfather Blandford owned several farms in the



William (left) and Leslie Blandford

district—some around Cooroy and Bli Bli. At one stage, he even owned the Timber Mill at North Arm, which surprisingly enough is still there.

Russ' grandparents lived into their 90's and were still alive when Russ and I got married so I was able to sit and talk with them about the old days. That's how I knew two of the brothers died in WWI.”

## Cal Webb

“My great uncle Archie Boadle enlisted for service with the Australian Imperial Force in July 1915 at the age of 19. After some initial training, he left for Europe in January 1916 and was immediately sent to the battlefields of the Somme.

In June 1918 Archie, by then a Sergeant, was wounded in action in but rejoined his unit in August 1918 where he took part in the last battles of WWI. He was awarded the Military Medal for “conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty neutralising enemy machine gun posts during the attack on Peronne on September 2, 2018.”



Archibald Boadle

Some of his thoughts are contained in a letter he wrote to his Uncle John who was with the AIF in Europe.”

Here is part of his letter:

*‘Dear Uncle,*

*.... Well how do you like being a soldier it would be a jolly side nicer if you were back in old Australia again and be your own boss would it not, I am just about fed up with this game as in another few days it is two years since I took the oath and said I would serve the Thing till duration of the war which I think is a long way off yet.*

*I don’t know whether you are over here wounded or not as they just told me you were at Tidworth. I suppose you wonder what brought me to Blighty well it was just this way. I got a couple of stripes after coming to France and after doing six months out there an N.C.O. was called out of my company to come as an instructor to the training batt & I happened to be the lucky devil to get recommended for it and here I am today.*

*I came away from France on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and wasn’t I glad to get away from that Somme as I have never saw a place like it in my life, I had my fair share of it walking in and out of the trenches with*

*muck up to your knees. Yet I could not get a crack or get crook so you can guess I was properly sick of it.*

*I often think of the way I pestered my father until he gives his consent to let me enlist but I will always be contented back in Australia if ever I come through this. I was twenty-one on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May so there would have been no hurry for me to join up if they ever had of brought in conscription.*

*Your nephew*

*Archie.’*

“After the war, Archie served as one of the 15 original ex-servicemen appointed as permanent guards of the newly built Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, a position he held until his retirement at 60 years of age in 1956.”



The Shrine Guard 28 February 1954 (Archie is at the front left)



# 1994 flashback

Celebrating 25 years in 2019

## The sixth in our series of memorable flashbacks to celebrate Noosa Chorale's 25th anniversary year in 2019.

In 2007 music director Adrian King ended his first year with the Chorale with our first Christmas *Wassail*—an idea he and his wife Helen had brought from their choir in the U.K. town of Grimsby.

Audiences revelled in the genial atmosphere of *bonhomie* and hearty Christmas Cheer as they sat at “cabaret-style” tables, having a few drinks, enjoying mince pies, cheese platters and joining the

choir with the singalong from word sheets of popular carols.

It was generally agreed it was a fun-filled Christmas party, the like of which they had never experienced before.

Each year a theme is chosen and in 2007 it was ‘STARS’ and the Bicentennial Hall looked like a giant winter fairyland with a 4-metre tall tree studded with pine cones painted white, huge stars on the walls and

a stage screen dotted with more stars.

The *Wassail* has now moved to The J Theatre and this year the theme is “JOY.” As in previous years, the J will be transformed into a wonderland filled with joyful Christmas scenes and festive décor.

There are always ‘house full’ signs for the Chorale’s two concerts. Noosa just loves to kick start its festive season with its *Wassail*.

