



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

19 January 2015

Opening of ANZAC Walk in Emerald

The Emerald RSL Anzac Walk and Anzac Place Project, funded by \$25,000 from ANZAC Centenary Grants and over \$47,245 from Veteran and Community Grants, will be officially opened by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Jason Wood MP, Federal Member for La Trobe on Wednesday 11th March.

The ANZAC Walk is well into the final phase of construction and will provide the Emerald community, as well as visitors, with a unique and poignant way to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli as part of this year's ANZAC Day commemorations.

"I am very proud to see this project come to life through federal funding. Anzac Walk will provide a space for locals and visitors to learn more about our local community's involvement in a great part of Australia's history" said Jason Wood MP.

"Members of the Emerald RSL who have worked on the Anzac Walk have displayed tremendous energy and enthusiasm, and the support provided by the Emerald community has also been outstanding" said Peter Maloney, President of the Emerald RSL.

Anzac Walk creates a new footpath along Memorial Avenue, and also incorporates the existing footpath along Main Road between Church Street and Kilvington Drive. Information stands along the walk will display information about each of the 32 soldiers from Emerald Township and surrounding Districts who died during World War One.

The Walk will also connect the existing Cenotaph, at the intersection of Main Road and Kilvington Drive, to Anzac Place, which is adjacent to the Emerald RSL Club. Anzac Place will be the centrepiece for the township's Anzac Day Dawn Service, which is followed by the traditional march later in the morning of 25 April.

A Memorial Stone, a Lone Pine Tree grown from the seeds of the original Lone Pine at Gallipoli and a statue of the Unknown Soldier which has been funded through the ANZAC Centenary Grants Committee will be offered as places of remembrance.

Emerald RSL member Tony Shovelton encouraged everyone from the Emerald community to take an active part in the official opening of the Anzac Walk on 11 March.



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The official opening ceremony will be based on recreating Emerald Township around the Emerald Railway Station in the 1920's, and recreating the return on Puffing Billy of WW1 soldiers to Emerald, where they are welcomed by a grateful and enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in 1920's period costume, local schoolchildren have been invited, and re-enactment WW1 soldiers will also be part of the day.

“I would really like to encourage members of the community, particularly families with young children, to get involved. There'll be a whole range of exciting activities to participate in, vintage cars on display, Puffing Billy will be operating, and an Armed Services Band will create an event which will honour this special time in the history of the Emerald community” said Jason Wood MP.

For further information on how to get involved please contact Emerald RSL.

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