



MEDIA RELEASE
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Hunt begins for descendants of 'lost' WW1 honour board

Marion Council is hunting for the descendants of more than 200 local servicemen listed on a World War One honour board that had been missing for more than 30 years.

The Edwardstown honour board had laid hidden in a storage room at Warradale Barracks until it was discovered by a local historian late last year.

The Council now wants to track down the servicemen's descendants and bring them together for a commemorative event at Warradale Barracks in October.

One of the servicemen named on the board is former Edwardstown resident, Reginald De Laine. His 82-year-old daughter Margaret Creer played a part in the discovery of the board when she donated a photograph of it to the Marion Heritage Research Centre.

"I've had a photograph of the honour board with me all my life and seeing my father's name on the real thing is very moving," Ms Creer said.

"My father was shot in the arm while in a trench in Armentieres in France the day after his 25th birthday on February 19, 1917 and returned wounded to Australia – his mate next to him was killed.

"Bringing the descendants of Edwardstown servicemen together will keep alive the legacy and stories of our local heroes."

Marion Councillor Raelene Telfer's great uncle, Raymond Swift, who served as a Lance Corporal in the 50th Battalion, was killed in fighting in Dernacourt, France, on 5 April, 1918, is also named on the honour board along with his five brothers who returned.

A full list of the 207 servicemen named on the board can be viewed on the City of Marion website marion.sa.gov.au

Descendants are invited to contact the Marion Heritage Research Centre on 7420 6455 or heritage@marion.sa.gov.au to register for the event, which will be held at Warradale Barracks at 10.15am on Saturday, 22 October.

Mayor Kris Hanna said the event, kicking off a "Day on the Khaki Green", would be a fitting tribute to those who served in World War One.

"The event will include a ceremony where the names of people on the honour board will be read out and their stories told," Mr Hanna said.

"I urge anyone who thinks they could have a former family member listed on the honour board to come forward."

The 2.4m blackwood board was discovered by local historian Jennifer Vincent late last year after being placed in storage at Warradale Barracks following the demolition of the Edwardstown Institute in the mid-1980s where it was previously displayed.

Contact: Craig Clarke, Unit Manager Communications, City of Marion, 0434 600 637



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