

RSL COMMUNITY LINK PROJECT ENABLES STUDENTS TO REPRESENT QUEENSLAND-BORN INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR ONE

RSL Sub Branches in Queensland communities whose schools include a substantial Indigenous cohort are now able to offer those schools an RSL Community Link project based on Queensland-born Indigenous soldiers who died in World War One. To date, twenty-seven Queensland-born Indigenous soldiers have been identified as having lost their lives.

Projects are sponsored by RSL Sub Branches or RSL Districts and enable students to represent the soldiers at their in-school and community remembrance ceremonies and in the local ANZAC Day march. They do this by wearing an engraved plastic Veteran's Memorial Plaque that shows a soldier's basic service details and medal ribbons, and a printed plastic Representative's Link Card that shows the name of their school. Examples are shown below. The items are retained by the school and re-used each year with a fresh group of students.

Participating schools are also supplied with an RSL Community Link Research Guide to help students find information about the individual soldiers in the online resources of the Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

For more information contact RSL Community Link Officer (Volunteer) Steve Eaton at RSL Queensland State Headquarters, email steve.eaton@rslqld.org phone 3634 9444 or mobile 0488 940683.



Wallie Johnson, an Indigenous soldier born at Whyenbah Station near St George. He was Killed in Action in France aged 22. Image courtesy of 'Too Dark for the Light Horse', David Huggonson.

