PINJARRA HILLS

Tale of hope and healing

LIVES REBUILT AFTER BATTLE

Jasmin Lill

ANZAC DAY 100 YEARS STORIES DAYS

GEORGE McGregor loved Anzac Day.

"The last time he was in the parade, he was in one of those Jeeps because he was having trouble with his legs," daughter Vicki Bennett said.

"I remember him sitting in this Jeep with his hat on and he was just so proud."

George was behind enemy lines during WWII, but long before that, when he was five years old, he was involved in helping to heal the scars left by conflict.

Ms Bennett wrote the children's book *Two Pennies*, which was inspired by her dad's involvement in a campaign by Victorian schoolchildren to rebuild a devastated school in Villers-Bretonneux in France after WWI.

"It was one of the most exciting things in his life," she said. "His father had a bakery and he used to get up and look after the horses and feed them. Then when they came back from their rounds he would brush them and wash them. It took him weeks to earn these two pennies."

George was heavily involved in volunteer work throughout his life, spending 30 years on the RSL state committee.

He also spent two years at RSL Care Fairview at Pinjarra Hills before he died in 2012.

Ms Bennett hopes the readers of *Two Pennies* will take a positive message from her father's story.

"That out of war, there's always that ability to heal. There is always hope. And that a little boy could make a difference," she said.



FATHER'S STORY: Vicki Bennett at the release of her book *Two Pennies*.

fast lane

Special service

St Andrew's Anglican Church is seeking descendants of local parishioners who died at Gallipoli to be part of a special service to commemorate their death. The centenary of Anzac service on Sunday, April 26, will pay tribute to former parishioners William Bradley, Fred Campbell, Herman Cannan, Frank Haymen, Herbert Hinton, Harry Homer, William Pacey, Sydney Penhaligon, Jack Sinclair and Reginald Webb. The service will be held at 89 Fairley St, Indooroopilly, starting at 9.30am. Phone 3870 7263.

Anzac tribute

The Theatre Organ Society of Australia (Queensland Division) will present a free tribute show in honour of the Anzac spirit at the Kelvin Grove State College assembly hall on Sunday, at 2pm. The performance will feature musical favourites from the end of the Great War and early 1920s as well as a silent film and footage of the Somme battlefields. It's at the corner of Tank St and Victoria Park Rd, Kelvin Grove. Phone 0412 879 678.

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