

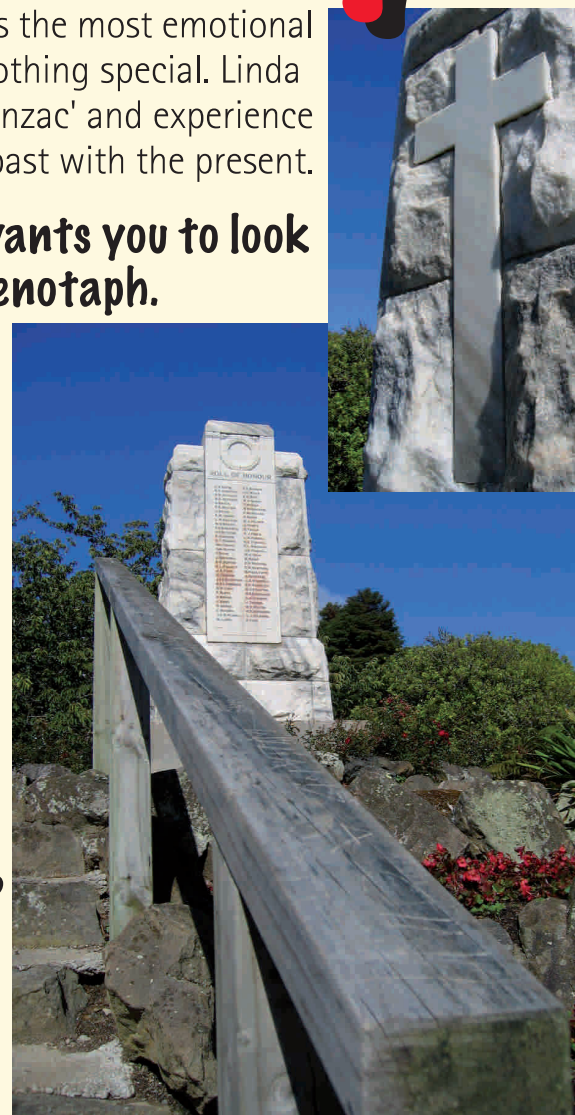
Caring For Our Community



April 25 is Anzac Day. For some, it's the most emotional day of their year. For others, it's nothing special. Linda Fletcher invites you to 'adopt an Anzac' and experience what happens when you join the past with the present.

The "RSA kid from Levin" wants you to look beyond the names on the cenotaph.

Adopt an ANZAC



He appears as Astridge W. G. on the Levin cenotaph. Beyond the name you'll find out Corporal William George Astridge was a farm assistant and his obituary in the Chronicle read "he was a young man of sterling qualities...and died nobly in the fight for liberty and freedom..."



Linda Fletcher and a group of other passionate citizens and genealogists have been researching 300 soldiers from the Boer, Vietnam, Korean, World War I and II wars since May 2006. In the lead up to Anzac Day they'll be exhibiting their findings so you can put a face to a name. "They're real people now," says Linda. She's grown up with respect for war heroes - her father was the president of the Levin RSA. "I'm hoping this exhibition will help younger people learn about what these guys did and see that they really are war heroes."

If you think the cenotaph is just a funny stone near the park somewhere, Linda asks you to look again. She says Adopt An Anzac is a key to connecting the past with the present, especially for small towns like Levin. "Through this research we've realised all the links we have," she says. "Some of these guys played rugby together or went to school together. And the generations below them are of course also linked."

The Adopt an Anzac exhibition runs 21-25 April in the Freyberg Lounge at the Memorial Hall in Levin. You can also look at the 300 soldiers online at www.horowhenua.kete.net.nz. Also check out the details for your local dawn ceremony on Anzac Day. It's a very moving experience where the past floods into the present for our community.

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