**Our DOGS**

**Remembrance Day NOVEMBER 2017**

In WW1 dogs were used as messengers, pack carriers, stretcher bearers, sentries and mascots. Almost 60,000 were taken to war at that time. By WWII they had progressed in duties and were also used to jump from planes with their handlers. It is believed that in the Korean War dogs reduced casualties by 65%- that’s no mean feat.

Progress has seen them now wear Kevlar vests, carry infra-red cameras, wear their own version of goggles called ‘doggles’ and special boots are made to protect them in whatever terrain they need to cross. Man’s best friend is our loving companion but never more so than when they lay down their lives for us.

***Poem: I question not your commands, I follow faithfully wherever you go, I pledge my loyalty no matter what, I share the danger of your domain and will readily lay down my life for yours… for in this moment we are one.***

2017 marks 103 years since the start of the war to end all wars and 102 years since the landings of our forces at Gallipoli. While this is remembered as one of the Allies great disasters in WW1, and was fought over an eight-month period, it is often marked as the start of what we know today as the ANZAC spirit as Australians and New Zealanders fought, and died, side by side.

Today we would like to salute those servicemen of our past and say thank you to those still serving in today’s conflicts.

Think of what we have and how it was obtained; be grateful for it and praise those who offered it to us, but most of all - enjoy it.