In memory of The Southport School Old Boys who lost their lives in the Great War
Our goal ...

This book is not a military history; nor is it a school history or biographical work in the traditional sense.

Rather, it attempts to recognise and memorialise the lives of fifty-two young men, all former students of The Southport School all who gave their lives in the Great War.

In response to ‘Project 52’ a program for Year 9.
The Cadet Program at TSS is a Core Leadership Experience. TSS is one of the few schools in Australia to offer the Tri-Service Cadet Program of Army, Navy and Air force.

The Cadet Program is a core experience for all boys in Years 8 and 9. It gives boys the opportunity to experience the discipline of drill, ceremonial occasions, teamwork, leadership, chain-of-command and adventure training. Currently, over 400 TSS boys are involved in the program.

The Leadership Program included in the Cadet Program offers boys the opportunity to continue after Year 9 in promoted positions thus gaining valuable leadership training and experience throughout their time at TSS.
Decisions, decisions ...

Ruined cathedral at Ypres

The Southport School Clock tower
Benefits and Challenges...

• Benefits:
  • An important record of TSS service and history
  • Relevance for current boys and staff
  • TSS, Old Boy and broader community links
  • Social history

• Challenges:
  • Funding the project
  • Managing/maintaining TSS Archives during the project
  • Keeping to schedule
  • Marketing and sales
The structure ...

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Relevance to TSS boys ...

The Southport High School’s cadet unit was established on 30 October 1906 as H Company, 3rd Queensland Battalion, Commonwealth Cadet Corps. A rifle range was constructed, and shooting competitions would remain a part of school sporting activities for many years.
Archibald Hewland Raymond

Born 4 April 1893
Died 3 March 1917

Archibald Raymond attended Southport High School from 1907 to 1910 in McKinley House and served as Sergeant in the School Cadet Corps. He was noted as quite an athletic young man and was School Prefect.

The personal effects returned to his family after his death included an inscribed medal “100yds, championship, Southport, 1907”.
Mervyn Dane Collings

Born 1891
Died 3 May 1915

Mervyn Collings was the eldest of five sons from a successful and well known family of tea merchants. He attended SHS from 1904 to 1907 and became a founding member of the Old Southportonians’ Association in 1911.
William Crouch Armstrong

Born 29 May 1896
Died 4 October 1917

Armstrong was born in Charleville and spent two years at Southport High School from 1911 to 1912 as a member of McKinley House. Three days before his death, William wrote to his parents what would be his last letter speaking about a tiredness with the business of war and the possibility of him becoming a casualty himself.

In 1922, on the first anniversary of the consecration of St Alban’s Chapel, the Crucifixion window was unveiled in memory of William Armstrong and fellow former student Donald Macneill.
Relevance to TSS boys ... Headmaster’s Message

I would urge this for the consideration of all boys, especially for those who are about to end their School career – may they ever be ready, and may they ever, in upholding the honour of the Empire, uphold the honour of their School.

Headmaster Dixon, Speech Day 1914.

Queensland troops boarding the *Omrah* in 1914 are farewelled. The Omrah was torpedoed and sunk in European waters in April 1918 whilst carrying troops.

(Images: SLQ Image APE-071-0001-0005)
Relevance to TSS boys ... TSS remembers

... the honoured names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice, and have been found ‘faithful unto death’.

Headmaster Dixon, Speech Day 1917

Throughout the War, the School recorded those old boys who enlisted, listing their names in an Honour Roll section of The Southportonian and adding them to the Honour Board as “brave men, honoured comrades and noble citizens”.

...
From mid-1916, plans were begun for a memorial to the former students, entirely funded by voluntary contributions. A sum in the vicinity of £5000 (c. $460,000 a century later) would be needed.

Headmaster Dixon’s report to Speech Day in 1917 spoke of the School’s wish to remember those who served and died via a “memorial chapel which shall be an imperishable record of the names of those who died”.

The Headmaster’s cherished ideal came to fruition in 1921 with the consecration of the new School chapel and dedication of a number of memorial windows on November 13th by Archbishop Gerald Sharp.
Feedback ...

Soon after the launch, a copy of ‘To Honour Your Name’ was sent to the Australian War Memorial.

Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, called to express his admiration and congratulations to all those involved in its publication. He referred to it as a ‘stunning publication’ and a great credit to those who produced it.
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