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# Welcome

To

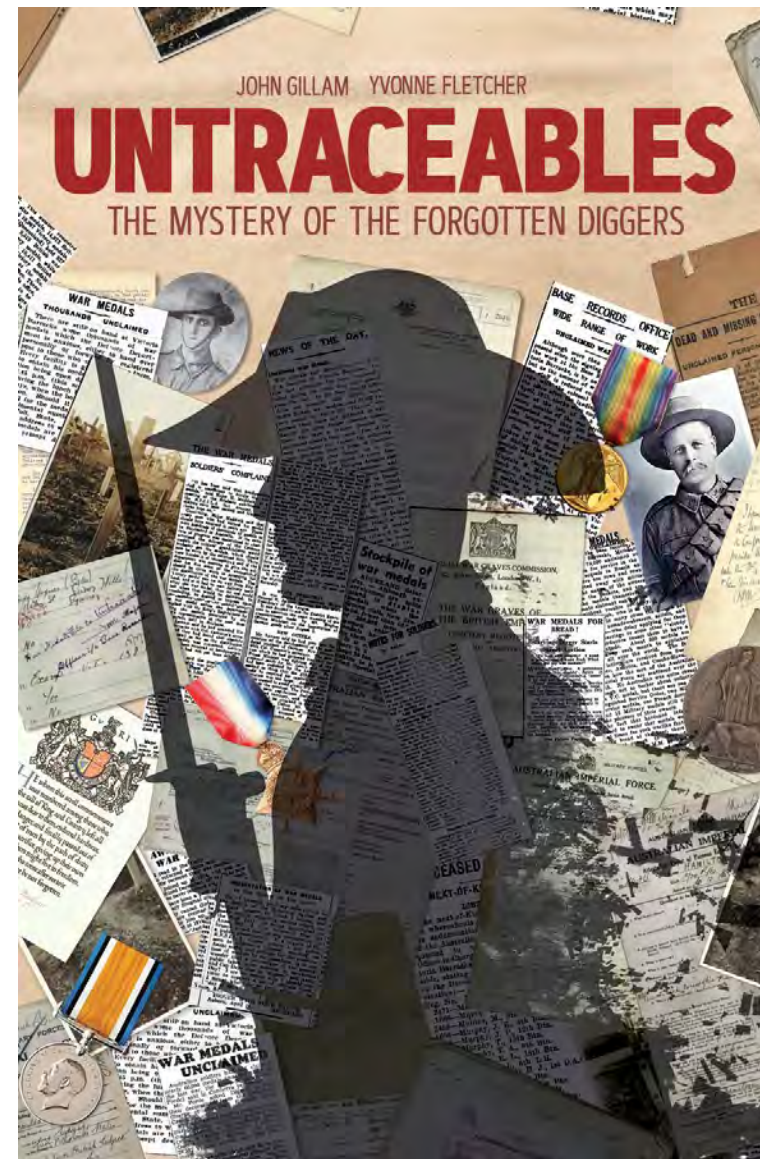
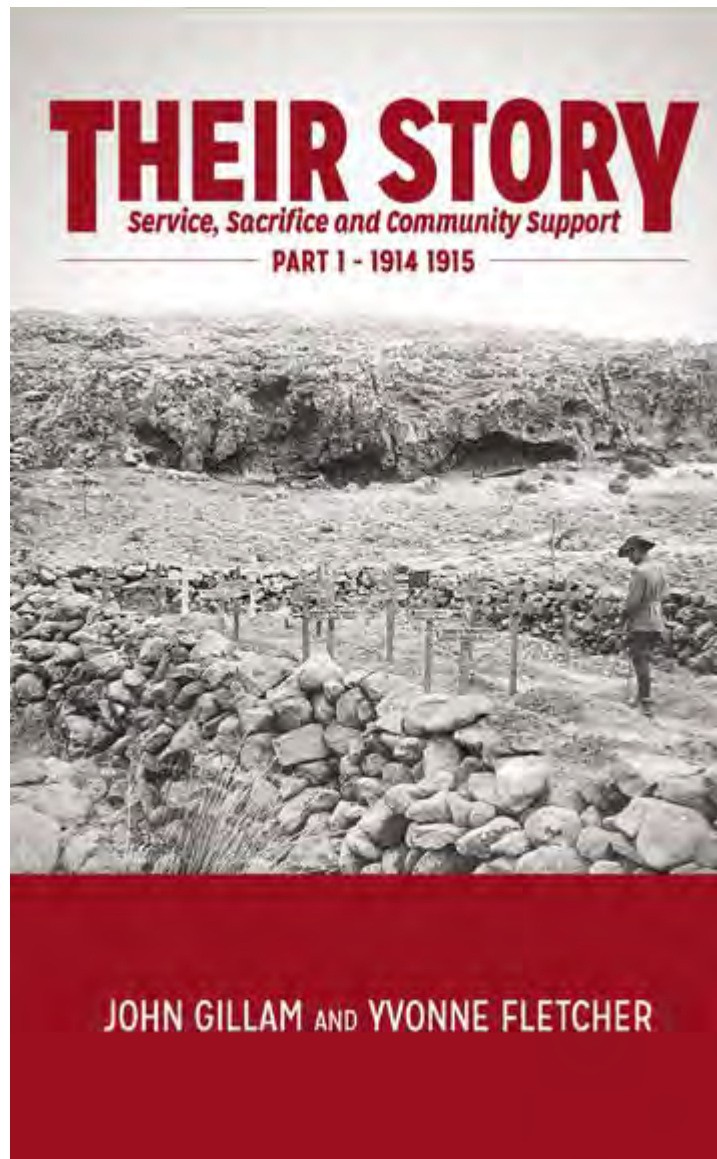
**The Mystery Of The Missing  
Medals & How We Are Creating  
Citizen Historians.**

**Presented by John Gillam & Yvonne Fletcher.**

# “Their Story” & “Untraceables”



LEGENDS  
&  
LESSONS

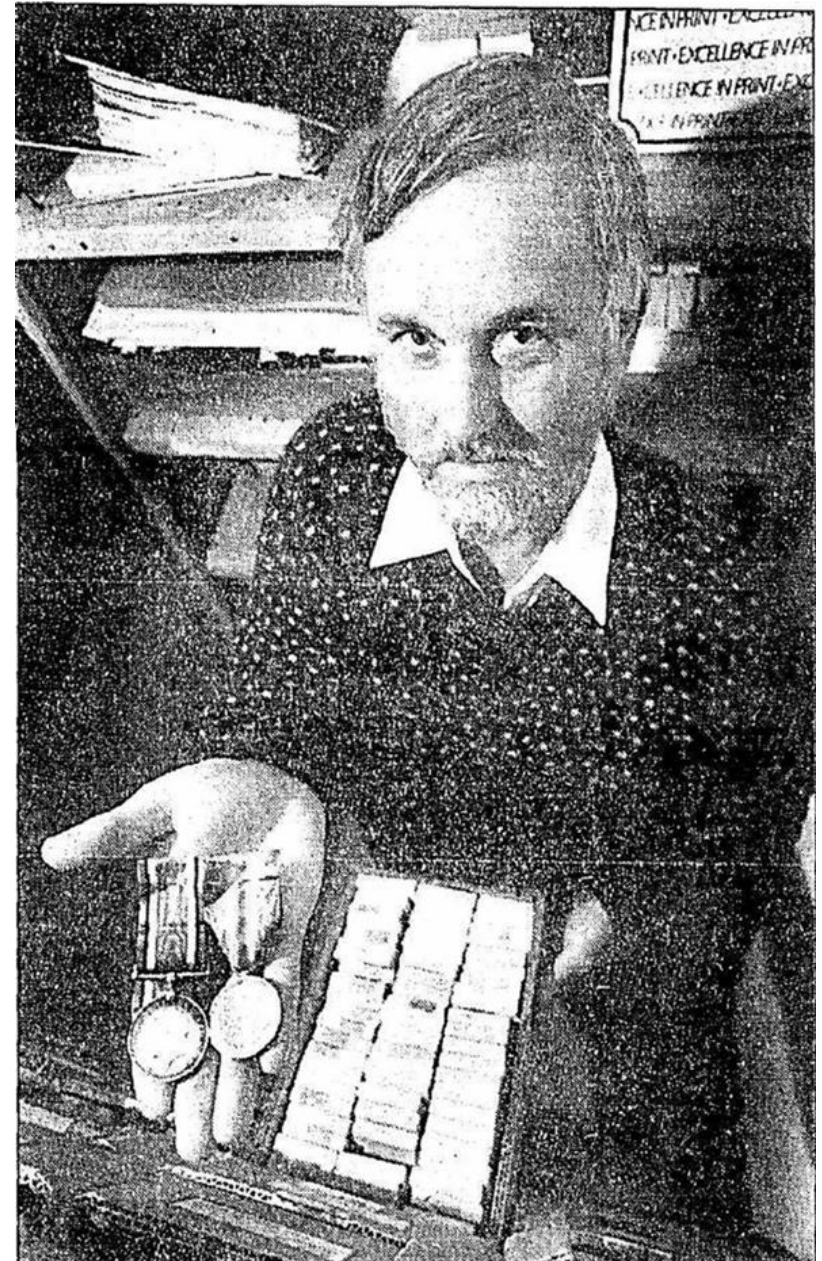
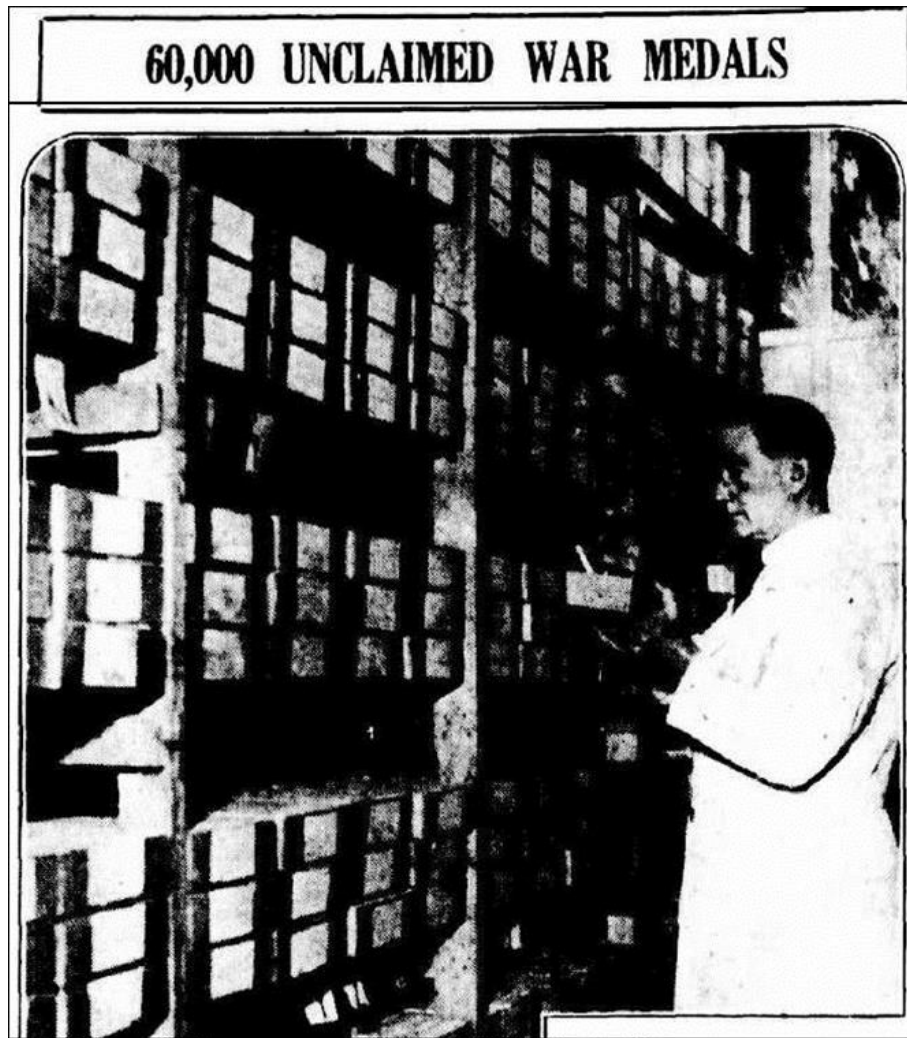




18



# February 7, 1934 & April 23 1995



© A HUGE STACK of war medals is at the Base Records

# Major Research Findings



- All War Medals from WWI to Vietnam (800 000) were put into storage post 1998.
- Post 1998 contemporary reproductions are being used by DH&A.
- Blood Medals (Lonely ASMs) pilfered from insecure storage, sold at international auctions.
- The DH&A error rate adversely affects Veterans & their families.

# The Major Problems



- DVA Minister confirms **likely** destruction of up to 800 000 medals from WWI to Vietnam.
- Lack of evidentiary documentation in DVA statements and in support DH&A assessments to establish eligibility for medal issue. This lack results in incorrect assessment for families.
- The “100 Survey” confirms this gap.
- We believe the missing documentation (based on reliable anecdotal evidence) was stored with the medals when archived post 1998. - Survey of 198 items of Series No. MT138/2 NAA





# Find Them, Remember Them – Creating Citizen Historians.



- Both NSW & National Curriculum for HASS & History – requires teachers to use the process of historical inquiry – to have students work as an historian would.
- NSW K-6 HSIE Syllabus also requires students to answer the question – ***How do you know? = Evidence.***
- FTTRT allows students to work within the confines of the community of practice of the historian (Ridge, 2014).
- Authentic Learning Project – Real Research for Real Purpose.
- Established eligibility of 16 Sets of Untraceable Medals.



# Laur's (2013) Framework



**Communicating Research and the production of a historical product. ANZAC Portal**

**Engaging with experts in the field. Teacher is seen as a guide only**



**Medals applied for at this point.**

**Launch and development of the overarching project question/s planning**

**Research – Historical Inquiry Sub-questions to answer the project question. Skills are developed as needed.**

# Find Them, Remember Them – Creating Citizen Historians.



- William Kelly Kurri Kurri Public School
- Keith Griffin Hinton Public School
- Theodore Chambers Fern Bay Public School.
- William King Thornton Public School
- Henry Crowley Lochinvar Public School.
- Seymour Lynn Portside Christian College
- Ernest Otis Auburn Public School.

# As at November 5, 2022 – Total = 2 517.

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- UNTRACEABLE 608 – Deceased, No locatable NOK.
- PENDING - 122 - Deceased with NoK not communicating.
- DISENCHANTED – 1 254 – RTA no medal receipts on file.
- FORFEITS – 373 of 3 000 – Punishment by Court-Martial.
- RETURNED - Invisibles 138 – Died in mental Institutions, Suicides - Unmarked graves, No medal receipts.
- UNDERAGE – 22 of 691.





# **LEGENDS & LESSONS**

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# Find Them, Remember Them – Creating Citizen Historians.



- Teacher reviews class project using Find Them Remember Them Process.
- If eligible, submit “WWI Medals for Schools Program” proforma to DH&A.
- Class use Find Them Remember Them process to create soldier profile.
- Project Based Learning (PBL) class determines how to locate & engage family.
- PBL If Soldier is Indigenous Contact Local Elders.
- PBL Medals to be presented? Class develops medal handover ceremony.
- PBL Class develops soldier story presentation. Adds to Discovering Anzacs (NAA).
- Class conducts ceremony to present soldier profile to community.
- Students become Citizen Historians School Repeats Process