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KID'S CORNER

The Lone Pine

By Piper McCallum

The Lone Pine was the only surviving tree from a group of trees that had been cut down in World War I by some Turkish soldiers so that they could use the branches to cover their trenches during The Battle Of Lone Pine. The tree was destroyed during the battle but some Australian soldiers collected the pine cones that were left and brought them back home and gave them to their close family and friends.

The seeds from the pine cones that were sent to family members from the soldiers have been planted in places around Australia and New Zealand. One of the ladies who had recieved a pine cone, donated one of the seedlings to the Australian War Memorial. In October 1934, it was planted.

They raised lots of seedlings at The War Memorial and they decided to present them to schools and other organizations throughout Australia. Mrs Bullock, a teacher at Bethany College in Hurstville, brought one of the seedlings back from the memorial and it was planted at Bethany College by Jack Thompson, a veteran from Bexley RSL club in 1998 as a seedling.



The tree has a plaque with the following words:

The Lone Pine was planted in 1998 by veterans from Bexley RSL club to commemorate Anzac Day. It is a direct descendant of the original "Lone Pine" tree at Gallipoli, where over 9,000 Australians and Turks were lost during the 3 day Battle of Lone Pine.



The tree means a lot to the students and teachers at Bethany College because it is a symbol of Anzac Day and because it is part of the Anzac Day ceremony every year. It has also helped to create a good friendship between the school and Bexley RSL.

Bibliography

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