

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING

Speaker: Mrs Marisa O'Connor

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC - Illawarra Remembers project –
Wollongong City Libraries



As the 100 year anniversary of the Great War approaches many organisations are expanding their online collections and digitising items that relate to 1914-1918. Extensive work is being done to catalogue and describe these collections in ways that allow items to be linked across collections and institutions using web technologies. Wollongong Library is joining these organisations and will be collecting and recording the stories for a website **Illawarra Remembers 1914-1918** which is planned to be launched in September 2014.

The Library applied to the State Government (State Library of NSW) for a grant and was notified of success early in 2013. The project partners are *the Illawarra Family History Group, Shellharbour Library, Kiama Library and the University of Wollongong.*

The project involves asking the community to share their stories, photographs, diaries, letters etc of their family members who participated in WWI. The project plan set aside three days in 2013 to share these stories and scan memorabilia from family collections. Research identified over 3,000 names of men and women from the Illawarra who participated in WWI.

A contractor is scanning the photographs, letters, postcards, diaries etc and Wollongong Libraries' librarian Steph Daly will photograph the memorabilia such as medals, ribbons, locketts and other objects in family collections. Wollongong Library had the first of these **scan and share days** at Thirroul on 26 June and the second at Dapto Library on 29 August. Shellharbour and Kiama Libraries had their scanning day on 10 September. The last **Scan and Share day** is planned for Saturday 26 October and to date, Wollongong library has photographed and scanned over 600 items and collected many stories.



Kim Phillips the ANZAC historian and editor of the *Spirits of Gallipoli* will be a guest speaker at Wollongong Library on 14 October 2013.

To read some of the stories visit the Illawarra Remembers Blog

<http://www.illawarraremembers.com.au>.