

MEDIA STATEMENT



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Museum talk to focus on famous First World War photo

Bunbury's link to one of the most poignant photographs from the First World War will be the subject of a free talk at the Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre later this month when the myths and mystery of the image *11th Battalion at the Great Pyramid* is discussed.

The picture features the 704 original officers and men of the West Australian 11th Battalion - including many from Bunbury and surrounding districts - posing on the pyramid known as Cheops on 10 January, 1915 during a break in training in Egypt.

A WA Genealogical Society project to identify all of the men in the photograph has produced amazing results and in turn has unearthed some fascinating stories about the men and how the photo made its way back to Australia.

Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre curator Laretta Davies said presenter Julie Martin would also focus on some of the Bunbury men featured in the photo. The talk will take place on Thursday, 28 April from 10am to 11.30am at the Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre at 1 Arthur Street.

"This famous photo includes some of the 60 men from Bunbury and surrounding districts who signed up for the AIF in August 1914," Mrs Davies said.

"Many of those men, in fact, signed up at the Bunbury Government School, which is now the home of the Museum and Heritage Centre.

"There are many myths surrounding this photo and due largely to the work of the Genealogical Society, a great deal of these quirky details are now being revealed."

The image was originally lent to the Australian War Memorial in the 1930s and it has since become a well-known and popular photograph that has been the subject of much conjecture.

More than one-third of the men in the photograph lie buried in foreign soil, having paid the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War.

The Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre is anticipated to open to the public later this year with fit-out tenders currently being sought.

Pictures: 11th Battalion at Cheops and Bunbury enlistments at what is now the Paisley Centre in 1914

ENDS

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