



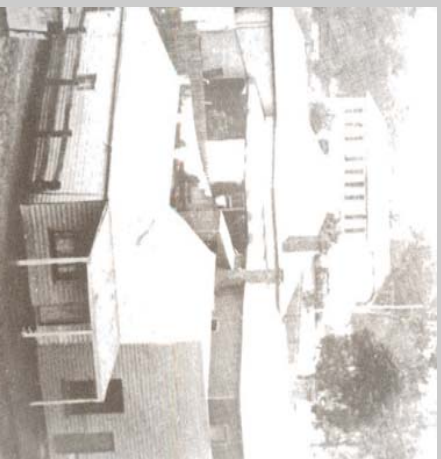
The award winning Coolamon RSL Memorial Museum is situated in the RSL Hall, Loughnan Street, Coolamon. The museum houses an extensive collection of military items from Pre-Federation to the present day.

The museum project is an initiative of the Coolamon Sub Branch of the Returned and Services League with the aim of preserving for the Coolamon community, a collection which specifically preserves the local military history of the Coolamon District.



RSL Museum  
Loughnan Street  
Coolamon, NSW

Tours by arrangement - Contact:  
Bill Lewy 02 6927 2095  
Brian Holden 02 6927 3330  
Dave McCann 0427 273 044  
Coolamon Heritage Tours 02 6927 3737



The RSL building was built by Mr Edwards for George Lucas, in 1907, and operated as a Coffee Palace. The above photo of the Coffee Palace was taken circa 1920's. The Coolamon Public School is seen at the top of this photo. School children came down from school to have hot soup and rolls during the winter time.

Boarders lived in the small rooms on the west side of the building. When the refreshment rooms closed, the large dining room was used for dances, parties, kitchen teas and receptions. The rooms at the front were used for meetings. For a short time, the building was used as a residence. The old Coffee Palace was purchased by the RSL in 1947.

*Brochure designed by Ashley Tibbard,  
as a service to the Coolamon Community  
for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, 2005*

**RSL Museum**  
Coolamon, NSW



RSL Museum  
Loughnan Street  
Coolamon, NSW

Few districts with the population of Coolamon have a better record of sacrifice and service during the First World War than the Coolamon district.

Its contribution to the common cause in men, money and patriotic endeavour provides testimony of which district residents of the period, have every reason to be proud. From the end of August, 1914, until the signing of the Armistice, there was a steady stream of young men from the district who volunteered for active service.

A record of all who volunteered does not exist, but the number must have exceeded 500. The number accepted for service abroad was 215, of whom 75 paid the supreme sacrifice. In a farming district such as this, it was a national necessity that many men who desired to go should remain to work the land that supplied food.

## The Room of Reflections



The room of reflections allows the opportunity for the visitor to spend time in memory of those from the communities of the Coolamon district who served the nation.

## Mabel Pearce Exhibit

'Ten million mothers weeping like Rachel for their children! What an ocean of fears!  
Daily Advertiser, June 9, 1915

These touching words may well reflect the heartache felt by a young Mabel Pearce as she crafted this Fillet Crochet in memory of her brothers. Wilfred and Alfred Pearce were both killed in action during World War 1.



Private Wilfred Ernest Pearce enlisted in the 3rd Battalion of the 1st AIF at Coolamon on the 15th January, 1915. His ship of embarkation was SS Kyarra. Wilfred Pearce landed at Gallipoli on the 25th April, 1915 and was killed in action at Lone Pine on the 12th August, 1915. He is buried at Lone Pine Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private Alfred Edmund Pearce enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of the 1st AIF at Junee on 3rd May, 1916. His ship of embarkation was SS Ceramic. Alfred Pearce was killed in action at Passchendaele, Belgium on the 7th November 1917, leaving a young wife, Ruby.

The fillet crochet work and photographs combine to form a moving reminder of family grief and loss. They recount the story of service and death of two young Australian men in World War 1 and also the poignant and silent narrative of a sister's grief at the loss of her two dearly loved, older brothers.

## The emphasis of the RSL Museum collection is on items of the local history

Among a number of significant items in the collection is the diary of Sergeant H.G. (Horrie) Fosse, a local man who landed in Gallipoli on 25th April 1915 and was among one of the first Australians ashore that day. The diary provides tremendous insight into the events and personal feelings of Sergeant Fosse as he experienced life as an Anzac.



This display is the RAAFNS (Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service) winter uniform and mess uniform from 1942. The RAAFNS uniform is significant in its associations with the personal stories of Alma Skeers (nee Pearce) and Cathy Thompson (nee Daniels) and their service during WW2. It is also significant in its interpretation of the stories of many RAAF nurses, who served during World War 2. Stories of long hours of hard work and nursing skill and also stories of recreational time shared and fun and laughter.

