

History of Sadie Foley and Percy Luxford

Sadie Foley and her father Percy Luxford had great connections to the area of Leongatha. Sadie was born in Port Melbourne, the second of eight children. Sadie helped Percy raise the family when his wife died giving birth to her eighth child. At 22, Sadie left home and married her husband Mal. Mal was a soldier in the Middle East and sustained injuries from the war, having most of his stomach removed. He returned home only two months after their wedding as an invalid. They were married for 43 years before sadly Mal passed away. After this, Sadie travelled the world and became an active member in the Lions Club, Legacy and Probus.

Percy Luxford enlisted in the army on 17 August 1914, in Shepparton at the age of 17. Private Percy Luxford of the 7th Battalion was among the Australian soldiers who stormed ashore at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli peninsula on April 25 1915, and was wounded on this day. After recovering he re-joined his battalion on 19 June 1915 and was part of the battle of Lone Pine in August 1915, Percy's service time was four years, finally returning home on 23 October 1918.

Percy worked as a lines foreman for the PMG throughout Gippsland before moving to Leongatha. He passed away in 1957 and is buried at Leongatha cemetery.

The Foley and Luxford family decendents of Percy and Sadie took part in the Anzac dawn service in Gallipoli on 25 April 2016. Sadie was originally selected to take part in this but unfortunately passed away in Leongatha hospital in July 2014 at the age of 91.