

## **David McGuiness**

David was raised on a dairy farm near Framlingham and attended the local school, but he had been born in Warrnambool and received his further education there, attending North Technical School and completing a motor mechanic apprenticeship with a Warrnambool automotive business. From an early age he was a keen horse rider, was a member of the Emu Creek Pony Club for many years, and rode horses competitively in shows and gymkhanas. For twenty-five years he has been a volunteer firefighter with the Framlingham RFB and over that period has been deployed twice to NSW and numerous times around Victoria. After discovering he had relatives in the armed forces who died overseas, and others who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse and the Royal Australian Flying Corp in World War One, the knowledge sparked an interest in military history and at the age of twenty-one he started a Light Horse living history group. In 2005 he joined the Warrnambool RSL as Assistant Memorabilia Officer and two years later was Vice President (Affiliate) on its committee, positions he continues to hold. Since 2005 he has travelled to the First World War battlefields of Gallipoli, France and Belgium, most recently in April of 2014 as a battlefield guide. His involvement with Flagstaff Hill is long-standing, in recent years being as the gun crew coordinator, organising working bees on the guns and garrison area, and assisting with the training of volunteers to fire the eighty-pound guns. He remains involved in and passionate about preserving our military history and maintaining its importance in the national consciousness.