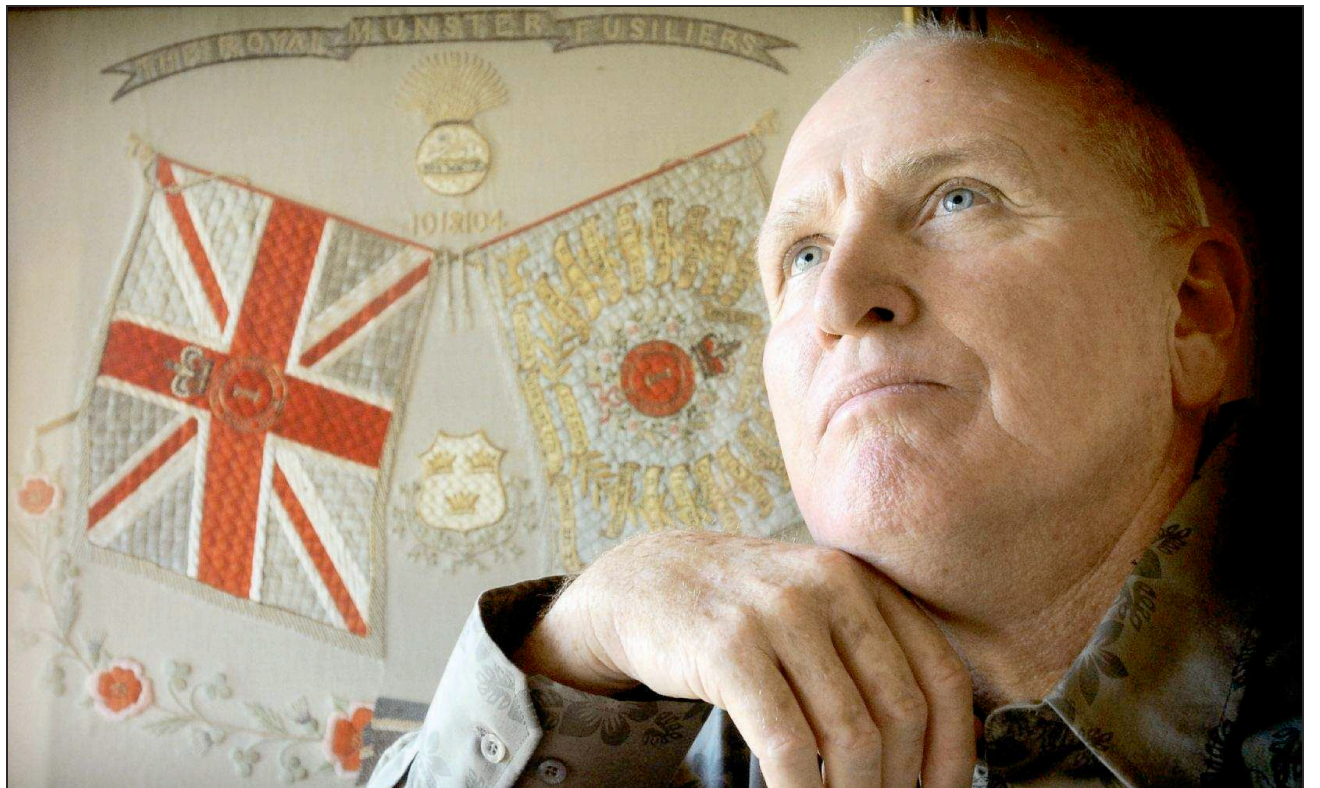




# Inspired by the ghosts of Diggers

Wynnum poet Paul Dobbyn has traced his family's wartime history and will share his findings at a live musical poetry-reading this Sunday. He spoke to **Desiree Duncan**.



■ War spoils ... writer Paul Dobbyn pieced together family memories.

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**F**INDING a box full of family and war memorabilia was all the inspiration Paul Dobbyn needed to write his book.

After his father Denis died, the Wynnum poet made the precious discovery which helped him piece together the memories left behind by his dad, grandfather Henry and uncle, Robert.

*War Spoils* is a small volume of poems beginning with Henry's

experiences with the Indian Royal Muster Fusilliers during several conflicts, including the Battle of the Somme.

Henry was shot three times and received serious shrapnel wounds, yet after WWI he raised his five children single-handedly.

Mr Dobbyn said the book incorporated some tragic family history.

"There are many such stories

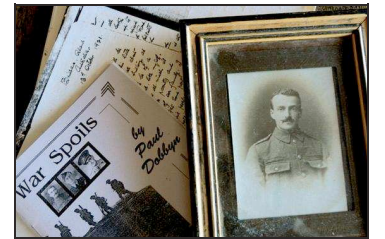
and it was a time of living dangerously with fatal diseases and families living under threat of war."

His father served in Papua New Guinea for several years with the Australian Army Intelligence Corps, while his uncle Robert was killed in service with the RAAF Pathfinder Squad.

Mr Dobbyn said he was spurred on to write the book after recall-

ing words of a former teacher who told him: "You've got to know where you come from to know where you stand."

As part of Anzac Day commemorations, Mr Dobbyn will read, accompanied by music, from *War Spoils* and from an earlier book *Soul Healing Afoot/Dead Dad Bye* on April 26 at the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre, 241 Tingal Rd, Wynnum, from 3-5pm.



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■ Insights ... some of the memorabilia used in the book.

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