

Learning lesson of loss

STUDENTS INVOLVED IN WAR EFFORT

James Hetherington

THE contribution of local students to World War I will be honoured today with the unveiling of a series of memorial plaques.

Dozens of male and female students from schools across the Unley district contributed to the war effort, both on home soil and overseas. Unley RSL has used a Federal grant to create the memorial plaques in the Soldiers Memorial Gardens recognising the schools' sacrifices.

Local students have been researching their predecessors' World War I efforts.

Unley RSL president Les Partridge said the plaques were a great way to honour the schools.

"We're trying to get the local kids more involved on



Vietnam veteran and Unley RSL president Les Partridge with Walford Year 6 students Julia Sullivan, 12 and Julia Paneras, 12, at the Soliders Memorial Gardens. Picture: BIANCA DE MARCHI

Remembrance Day," Mr Partridge said.

"Having the plaques is a

fantastic way to get the children researching veterans and members of their

schools. It does an excellent job of bringing to mind the sacrifice of the people who

didn't make it in Gallipoli." About 300 people are expected to attend today's Remembrance Day service.

"At this stage we expect something like 250 kids to attend, which is a huge number," Mr Partridge said.

"We get a lot of people shopping who stop and come over, too."

Walford student Julia Sullivan, 12, is looking forward to sharing the day with veterans.

"I think it is a good idea for students like myself to get to experience the Remembrance Day ceremonies," Julia said. "We get to understand what the day is all about and what it means to the surviving soldiers."

Children at the ceremony will be able to take home a small piece of Gallipoli.

They will be given a sprig of rosemary from a bush in the gardens that was grown from a stem brought back from Anzac Cove in 1915.

The service begins at 10.45am today.