

Cook to look into WWI war graves

Premier Roger Cook has pledged to look into the treatment of dozens of soldiers who lie with little or no recognition at Karrakatta Cemetery.

Ahead of the state funeral for WWII hero Arthur Leggett, Mr Cook said “we should also never forget that there are many other West Australians who lost their lives in the wars and it’s important that we actually respect those”.

“I’ll look further into it,” he said.

His comments came after The West Australian reported that dozens of soldiers who served in WWI lie with little or no recognition at Karrakatta Cemetery in often disrespectful states.

Soldiers who returned from WWI and died as a consequence of their service were buried in civil cemeteries such as Karrakatta because there was no war cemetery.

Karrakatta is home to more than 3500 WWI and WWII veterans, many of whom have well-defined graves and granite Australian Imperial Force headstones.

However, the ravages of time and so-called burial plot renewal programs — which have graves demolished every few decades unless the deceased’s family is aware and pays more money — means others have been squeezed into obscurity.

Modest plaques are haphazardly wedged near their burial site after their original granite headstones were smashed during cemetery renovations.

At least 100 men have no grave and no plaque.

‘He was a remarkable man but to us he was just our dad’ PAY RESPECTS TO A REAL WA HERO

MALCOLM QUEKETT

West Australians have been urged to go into the city on Saturday morning for the military State funeral of World War II hero Arthur Leggett.

Mr Leggett, who was WA’s oldest and last surviving WWII prisoner of war, died last month, aged 106.

On Thursday Premier Roger Cook, Veterans’ Minister Paul Papalia, the army and Mr Leggett’s family urged West Australians to pay their respects to Mr Leggett in a once-in-a-generation event.

Mr Leggett’s youngest daughter Sue Meagher thanked the Government and army for the state funeral.

She said her father was a hardworking and humble man and a great dad.

He would say “what’s all this pomp and ceremony, I was just a simple man”, Ms Meagher said.

“He was a remarkable man but to us he was just our dad doing what he does.

“Please if you can, come into the city. I think it is so important that children understand what people did for us so that we can live the life we live now,” Ms Meagher said.

Mr Cook said Mr Leggett was a hero whose bravery and contribution to his community would never be forgotten.

“The service and procession will be a very special event and will provide an opportunity for Western Australians to pay their respects to a man who sacrificed so much for his country,” Mr Cook said.

Mr Papalia said that after Mr Leggett’s military service his devotion to his fellow veterans never faded.

“The state funeral will be a once-in-a-generation event and a chance for all of us to honour the extraordinary courage Arthur showed

in the darkest of times,” Mr Papalia said.

“The freedoms we enjoy today are the result of the sacrifices made by those who served, and I invite the community to come along and pay their respects.”

Brig. Damian Bushell presented the 13th Brigade Challenge Coin to the Leggett family in recognition of Mr Leggett’s service.

He said the military state funeral was



a rare and significant event which would involve about 100 soldiers.

From about 9.40am on Saturday a military procession will slowly march from West Perth down St Georges Terrace.

The procession will include two guards comprising soldiers from the Royal Western Australia Regiment, a Bearer Party, Gun Tractor and Carriage as well as the WA Army Band.

In a poignant symbol, a riderless horse (from the Western Australian mounted police) will lead the march, symbolising a fallen service person.

The public is invited to line the St Georges Terrace route from Mill Street and follow the procession after it has passed.

The procession will conclude with a RAAF flyover. The St Georges Cathedral tenor bell will toll 106 times.

The funeral service will start at 10.30am at the cathedral and will be broadcast live.

Seating inside the cathedral is limited to family and official mourners but the public is welcome to watch the live broadcast from the public viewing area in Stirling Gardens.



Arthur Leggett’s family — Darin Shepherd (grandson), Maureen Rayson (daughter), Julie-Ann Hampton-Meagher (granddaughter), Susan Meagher (daughter) and Dylan Shepherd (great-grandson).
Picture: Ian Munro

Health claims can confuse

More than 8.6 million Australians aged 18-65 are misled by sugar and carbohydrate claims — such as “low carb” and “low sugar” — on alcohol products, thinking these claims mean these products are healthier and better for them.

Research from Cancer Council Victoria’s Centre for Beha-

viour Research in Cancer also shows that between 2013 and 2023, nearly one in three new alcohol products featured a health-oriented or nutrition claim, such as “no added sugar” or “low carb” — an increase of 13 per cent in the past decade.

Alcohol can cause cancer and other health issues.

Royal writer says King has three years

A shocking claim about King Charles’ cancer battle has been made by a renowned royal correspondent.

The European editor-at-large at the Daily Beast, Tom Sykes, revealed on the publication’s podcast that “succession plans are gearing up” as “no one is really expecting Charles to live,

you know, more than three or four years”.

“And I mean that in the context of that when he came to the throne people definitely felt he could live ‘til he was the age of his mother or his father who was 99,” Sykes said.

“So people definitely thought it was 20 years of the King Char-

les era and I think people much more now think it is now going to be a five, six-year reign, something like that.”

King Charles has been receiving weekly treatments after his cancer diagnosis in 2024.

Prince Harry has claimed he has been shut out of updates about his father’s health.