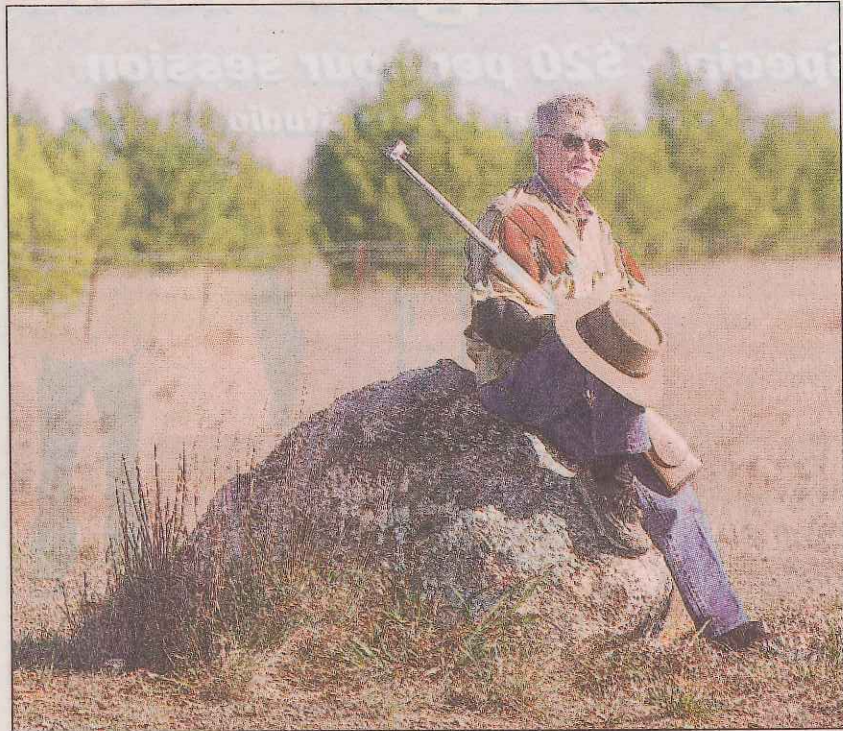


# Anzac Day



**Arboreal history:** Werribee Rifle Club president Roland Wade with the Aleppo pines in the background. **Picture: Craig Cahill**

## Reminders of a battle far away

By Michelle Coleman

NINETY-THREE Aleppo pines form a guard of honour at the Werribee International Shooting Complex, descendants of the Lone Pine that stood high above the trenches at Gallipoli.

The trees were planted in 1993, propagated from the Matron Paske Memorial Tree in Horsham.

The Horsham tree was one of 150 from Legacy's limited propagation in 1964 from the 24th Battalion Aleppo pine at the Shrine of Remembrance in Mel-

bourne. That tree shrine is one of the four surviving Victorian "children" of the Lone Pine, propagated from a pine cone brought back by Sgt Keith McDowell in 1915.

Legacy's aim with the 1964 propagation, and later ones, was to ensure the continuation of the "spirit of Lone Pine".

Brian Mark grasped that spirit in 1993 when he suggested planting the trees as a joint initiative between the Werribee Rifle and Clay Target clubs.

One hundred and fifty

seedlings were purchased from Wail Nursery in Dimboola and planted at the site; 57 succumbed to the drought or theft.

Club spokesman Bob Clifton said the seedlings were purchased, "with the express intention of preserving a part of Australia's history within the local community, as well as providing much-needed shade and landscaping for the complex boundaries."

■ Produced with the aid of Horsham Historical Society, Legacy, RSL and the Werribee Rifle Club.