






















# Avenues of Honour Research Report

Produced for the national 2015  
Avenues of Honour project



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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Indicates site listed on Queensland Heritage Register



Indicates site listed on City Plan Heritage Register



## Acknowledgements

Brisbane City Council wishes to extend sincere thanks to all persons and organisations that have contributed information, anecdotes and photos for this research report.

And to the servicemen and women, who since 1915 have proudly served their country and gave their lives and whose memories live on through Brisbane's Avenues of Honour.

'LEST WE FORGET'



Mowbray Park War Memorial, East Brisbane  
(October 2006)

### Disclaimer

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Correct at time of printing.

## Introduction

This report has been commissioned by the Natural Environment and Sustainability Branch, Open Space Planning Section of Brisbane City Council as part of the 2015 Avenues of Honour project.

The project, which is a national initiative coordinated by TREENET in South Australia, aims to honour the memory of every individual who has made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of all Australians. TREENET intends to do this by documenting, preserving and reinstating the original tree plantings and establishing new Avenues of Honour by the Centenary of Anzac in 2015.

TREENET is an independent not-for-profit national urban tree research and education organisation based at The University of Adelaide's Waite Arboretum at Urrbrae, South Australia. Its major focus is on research and collation of information regarding Australian street trees. Further information on TREENET and the 2015 Avenues of Honour project can be found at [www.treenet.org](http://www.treenet.org) and also at [www.avenuesofhonour.org](http://www.avenuesofhonour.org)

This report chronicles the stories of 24 memorial and commemorative tree plantings in Brisbane City established to honour the memory of Brisbane servicemen and women.

The stories were collected from November 2005 to May 2007 from known plantings, documented information and historical records supplied by service organisations and members of the public.

While much effort has gone into gathering information on as many of Brisbane's plantings as possible, it is expected there are other memorial plantings in the city which were not detected during the term of this project.

Many of the sites contained in this research report are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and/or Council's City Plan Heritage Register. This indicates that these sites have been officially recognised and contain cultural, indigenous or natural heritage significance. They are protected by legislation and any proposed works, upgrades or maintenance of these memorials requires written approval from either the Environmental Protection Agency and/or Brisbane City Council.

Any additional information on memorial or commemorative tree plantings honouring fallen Australian servicemen and women not contained in this report would be appreciated, and can be passed on through the Brisbane City Council's Call Centre on (07) 3403 8888.

## The Origins of the Lone Pine

Many of the sites documented within this report contained Lone Pine plantings. Some of the information below was extracted from the Australian War Memorial Garden Advice Series:

The name Lone Pine (also known as the Gallipoli Pine or Aleppo Pine) originates from a single pine tree (*Pinus halepensis*) which grew on the site of the battle (known at the time as Plateau 400). Before it was destroyed early in the battle, the soldiers called it Lonesome Pine after a popular song of that era called "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine".

After the battle of Lone Pine in 1915, two soldiers collected pine cones from the branches of the Aleppo Pine that the Turks used to cover their trenches. Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith of the 3rd Battalion sent a cone home to his mother, Mrs McMullen from Inverell in New South Wales. Mrs McMullen kept the cone for thirteen years until 1928, when she planted the seeds. She grew two seedlings, one of which she presented to the town of Inverell.

The other she sent to the Parks and Gardens section of the Department of the Interior in Canberra. The Duke of Gloucester planted this second tree at the Australian War Memorial in October 1934.

At the end of the war, Sergeant Keith McDowell of the 24th Battalion brought a pine cone home with him. He gave it to his Aunt, Mrs Emma Gray, who lived at Grassmere near Warrnambool, Victoria. A decade or so later Mrs Gray planted the seeds and four seedlings grew. One was planted in May 1933 in Wattle Park, Melbourne, and another at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Further plantings were also completed at the Soldiers Memorial Hall at The Sisters and in the Warrnambool Gardens.

Since the 1980s, a number of grafts have been taken from the tree planted at the Australian War Memorial and planted in various locations around Australia including Launceston, Canberra, and Smithfield, New South Wales.

Today, Lone Pines are propagated and sold by the Yarralumla Nursery in Canberra, using seed sourced from the tree planted by the Duke of Gloucester. (It is understood the majority of Lone Pines planted in Brisbane have been sourced from the Yarralumla Nursery).

### Sources

Department of Veterans Affairs. *Journal of the Office of Australian War Graves 2002.*:  
[http://www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/2004/OAWG\\_Journal\\_2004/index.htm](http://www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/2004/OAWG_Journal_2004/index.htm)

Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (Queensland Branch). *The Queensland Digger* 1 July 1932.

The Australian War Memorial Garden Advice Series:  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/notes\\_pine.htm](http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/notes_pine.htm)

Mackay North State High School website:  
[http://www.macknortshs.qld.edu.au/ANZAC/lone\\_pine\\_memorial.htm](http://www.macknortshs.qld.edu.au/ANZAC/lone_pine_memorial.htm)

## Andrew Clark Memorial, Fernvale Road, Tarragindi



Andrew Clark Memorial, Tarragindi (January 2006)

### Description

The memorial to Private Andrew Clark, who was killed in action in France in World War I, stands in a small area of parkland at the intersection of Fernvale Road and Andrew Avenue, Tarragindi. The memorial consists of a cairn, a flagpole and a crow's ash (*Flindersia australis*).

The tree was originally enclosed by concrete kerbing, with ornamental stops at the three corners. In 2004, the site where the memorial stands was transferred from a road reserve to parkland. Council staff restored the memorial by replacing the original cairn with a new plaque set in stone, as well as installing paving and fencing.

### History

Private Andrew Clark was believed to be the only person from the district, then known as Sandy Creek, who was killed in the war.

In a 1978 *Sunday Mail* article local historian Mr George Dean was reported as saying that the memorial was paid for by the local Sandy Creek Progress Association at a cost of \$60, and a crow's ash was planted there in 1925.<sup>1</sup>

The Council heritage citation for the site notes that the memorial is significant in demonstrating the gratitude of the local community for the sacrifice of that family.



The inscription on the plaque contains the following words:

*'This stone was erected and tree planted in memory of 2605A Private Andrew Clark 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF killed in action in France 18<sup>th</sup> March 1918 aged 26 years. Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. 1914 –1918'.*

An adjacent area of land beside the avenue, donated by local families, was also dedicated to the memory of Private Clark.<sup>2</sup>



The cairn which commemorates Private Andrew Clark (January 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>*The Sunday Mail*, 16 July 1978.

<sup>2</sup>O'Brien, Juliet and Dean, George D. *A History of Wellers Hill, Tarragindi and Ekibin, 1850-1976*. Brisbane. Wellers Hill Parents and Citizens Association. 1976, 21.

Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, Citation for the Andrew Clark World War I Memorial at Tarragindi, May 2002.

National Survey of War Memorials Judith McKay Collection, Fryer Library, University of Queensland, UQFL208.

## Anzac Park, Toowong



Photo of Anzac Park taken in 1967 showing rows of trees, thought to be part of the 1918 memorial plantings. (Brisbane City Council Park History Files).

### Description

In September 1918, a range of ornamental trees including Macadamia nut trees (*Macadamia integrifolia*), were planted in Anzac Park, Toowong to commemorate the men of the district who died in World War I. Unfortunately, there are no records which indicate the number of trees that were planted or which trees were memorials. Although the exact location of the memorial plantings is unknown, a 1946 aerial photograph shows a distinct double row of trees along the park border on Wool Street, which are possibly part of the plantings.

### History

Anzac Park was once a paddock and was originally part of the Crown Cemetery Reserve. By 1887 no burials had taken place in this portion, and the 133 acre site was gazetted as a rifle range. By 1918 the rifle range was decommissioned and the area became a memorial park. Walter C Harding, a resident of Wool Street and J Hiron, with some assistance from Council, were instrumental in commencing the beautification of Anzac Park.<sup>1</sup>

*The Queenslander* on 14 September 1918 printed a photograph of one of the memorial trees with a marker in front of it depicting a map of Australia with the soldier's name, rank, unit colours and service number. The tree was dedicated to 'Bomber' Bert Richards who was killed in France. The trees were apparently planted in rows and the palms were a later addition.





Mr WC Harding, Wool Street resident involved in the park beautification in 1918. (Brisbane City Council Park History files)

“By the time of the Great Depression and World War II, the park had become neglected, the soldiers markers were missing and the trees in poor health. Reconstructing and replanting of the park began in 1947. Local residents have continued to be active in instigating or taking part in the major tree planting’s and upgrading schemes over the years”<sup>1</sup>.



The Wool Street frontage of Anzac Park (March 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Magub, Judy. 'Toowong Parks' in Leggat, Susan and Grant, Roslyn. *Toowong: A Community's History*. Brisbane: West Toowong Community Association. 2003.

Brisbane City Council 1946 digital aerial image mosaic.

Brisbane City Council Anzac Park Toowong Conservation Management Study Site Reports vol.2 September 2002.

Brisbane City Council City Assets Branch Stage 1 Draft Interim Report Part 3). November 2002.

*The Queenslander*. 14 September 1918.

Wilson, A.F.H. Letter to the Editor. *The Courier Mail*. 11 July 1963.

## Anzac Square, Adelaide and Ann Streets, Brisbane



The bottle trees and palms in Anzac Square (March 2006)

### Description

Anzac Square in Brisbane Central Business District is home to six stately bottle trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*) planted in the 1930s following the official opening of the square on 11 November 1930. All the trees in the park are commemorative plantings and relate to different wartime campaigns.

WJ Kursey notes in his book *History of Anzac Square 1930 –1934* that the bottle trees add a Queensland atmosphere to the square.<sup>1</sup> While the exact date of planting is unknown, the presence of juvenile bottle trees is evident in photographs of the square from the John Oxley library collection dated c1934, and in photographs from the 1940s their characteristic bottle shape is clearly developing.

Their common name comes from their habit of developing a swollen trunk.

The date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) in the square are from the Middle East and are representative of Australia's success in the region during both world wars, while the palm trees are a biblical symbol of victory.

### History

The bottle trees are believed to have been donated by Sir Donald Charles Cameron, KCMG, DSO, VD, Order of the Nile, a distinguished soldier and one time Federal Member for Brisbane. It is thought they came from his property at Longreach and were dedicated



by him to symbolise the six contingents of the Queensland Light Horse Regiments who went to the South African (Boer) War (1899 –1902).

Sir Donald Cameron served in the Boxer Uprising (as part of an American infantry regiment) and in the South African (Boer) War, having left with the Sixth (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) Contingent. He enlisted in the AIF in September 1914 and was appointed Captain in the 7th Light Horse Regiment. In November that year, he transferred to the 5th Light Horse Regiment and in December he embarked for Egypt as second-in-command of C Squadron. From May 1915 until the evacuation his regiment fought as infantry at Gallipoli. He was severely wounded twice during the Gallipoli campaign. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1917 commanding the 5th Light Horse Regiment. He was awarded the DSO in 1917 and was knighted in 1919 and received the Order of the Nile in the same year.<sup>2</sup>



Sir Donald Charles Cameron, 11 July 1938.  
(State Library of Queensland neg no. 193360)

Although six bottle trees stand in the square today, three are actually replacement trees. One in the middle of the walkway was replaced in the 1970s; a second was replaced in the 1980s with a tree donated from private land at Wynnum; and a third replacement tree from Roma was planted in recent years.

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> Kursey, W.J. *History of Anzac Square 1930-1984*. Brisbane: Anzac Square Preservation Society, 3.

<sup>2</sup>*Brisbane Centenary Official Souvenir. 1823-1923*. Brisbane Centenary Celebrations Committee. 1924, 132.

Anzac Square photograph collection, John Oxley Library.

Australian War Memorial Nominal Roll <http://www.awm.gov.au/database/boer.asp>

Department of Veteran's Affairs. *Brisbane City Memorial Walk: Brisbane's Wartime History in Our Streets*. 2003.

Nominal Roll and Service of the Australian 5<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment A.I.F. Queensland Military Memorial Museum.

The Australian Dictionary of Biography On-Line Edition,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070536b.htm>

## Balmoral Park, Morningside



Weeping figs, Balmoral Park, Morningside. (March 2006)

### Description

Like the plantings in Bulimba Memorial Park, an avenue of weeping figs (*Ficus benjamina*) was planted in Balmoral Park to commemorate the fallen of World War I. More than 70 trees are believed to have been planted in a curving avenue adjacent to the internal park road, Jean Howie Drive, between Wynnum and Bennetts Roads. Nineteen of the original trees remain today.

### History

The history of the avenue is incomplete. What is known is that, as with the trees in Bulimba Memorial Park, the trees in the avenue bore commemorative plaques honouring the fallen.

Ernie Adsett, the late President of the Colmslie RSL Sub-Branch, believed that the plaques currently housed in the rooms of the Colmslie RSL Sub-Branch, may have come from both Balmoral as well as Bulimba Memorial Park. However, these plaques are apparently not the originals. Ken Inglis in *War Memorials in the Australian Landscape* records that in 1935, all 76 of the lead plaques in the avenue were stolen. While commercial theft was a possible motive, Inglis speculates that the perpetrator may have had other design reasons, as the theft happened on the eve of Anzac Day. Local RSL members had to quickly make new plaques in time for the service.<sup>1</sup>



## Sources

*Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir. 1823-1923.* Brisbane Centenary Celebrations Committee. 1924.

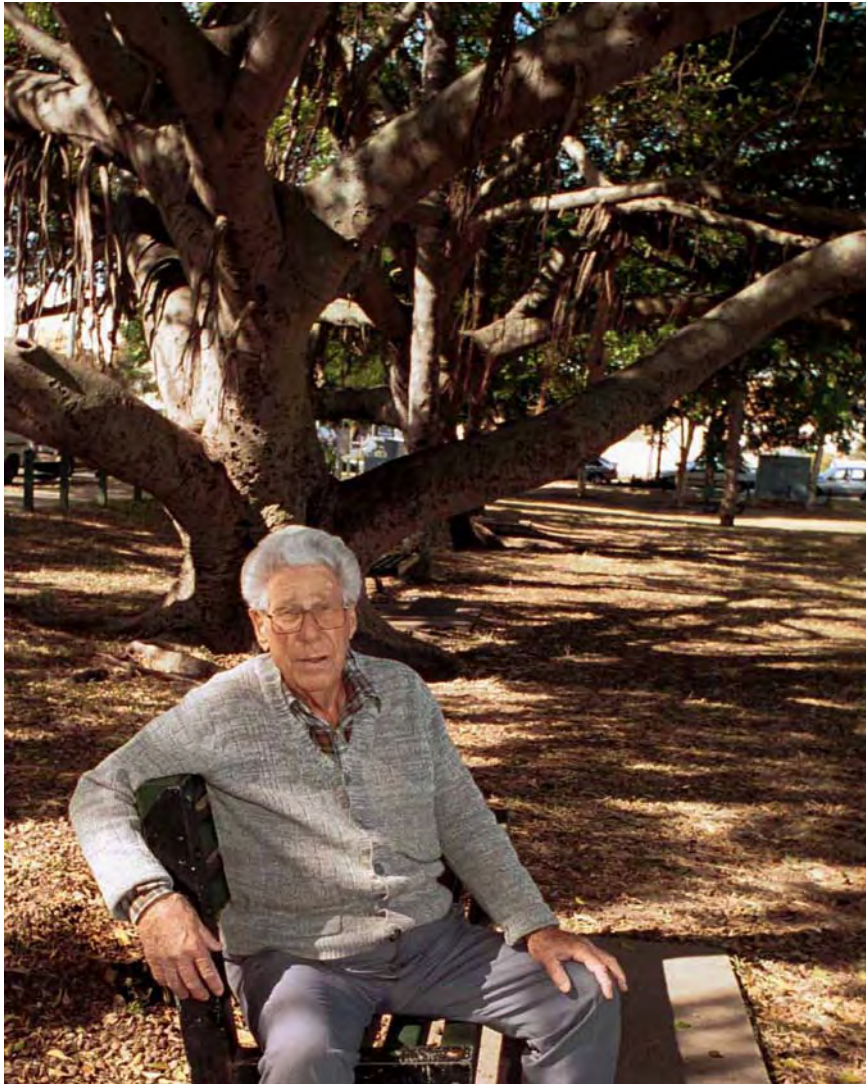
Brisbane City Council 1946 digital aerial image mosaic.

Bulimba Electorate Committee. *History of Bulimba Electorate 1859-1959.*

City Design, Brisbane City Council. *Bulimba Memorial Park Management Conservation Plan.* 2003.

<sup>1</sup>Inglis, Ken. *Sacred Places: War Memorials in the Australian Landscape.* Melbourne: Meigunyah Press. 1998, 248.

## Bulimba Memorial Park, Oxford Street, Bulimba



Ernie Adsett, the late President of the Colmslie RSL Sub-Branch, in the shade of the memorial fig trees in Bulimba Memorial Park (March 2006)

### Description

Bulimba Memorial Park comprises approximately 4.6 hectares of land, bounded by Godwin, Oxford, Stuart and Barramul Streets.

According to Brisbane City Council's Conservation Management Plan for the park, memorial trees were planted around the perimeter of the park between 1919–1923 in memory of the men and women from the Bulimba district who enlisted and went overseas in World War I.

The original memorial plantings on the site are likely to include the nine small-leaved figs (*Ficus obliqua*) along the Oxford Street frontage, interplanted with cocos palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), weeping figs (*Ficus benjamina*) and small-leaved figs (*Ficus obliqua*) along Godwin Street, and a small-leaved fig on Stuart Street at the playground area.

Under the fig tree canopy inside the Oxford Street park entrance gates is a cairn with a metal plaque bearing the following words:

*'Bulimba Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park. Opened on the first day of November 1919, by the Honourable W.H. Barnes, MLA and dedicated to the soldiers, sailors and nurses who enlisted from Bulimba for service in the Great War 1914-1919.'*

*'The origin of the park was due to the generosity of the late Robert Jamieson Esq. who in 1914 made a gift to the people of 4 acres of land forming the nucleus of the park.'*

November 1919

A. Davies, Chairman  
Balmoral Shire Council



The top inscription on the cairn at Bulimba Memorial Park (June 2006)



The cairn at Bulimba Memorial Park (June 2006)

## History

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) records suggest that part of Bulimba Memorial Park may have been established by the Balmoral Shire Council as early as 1904, as Jamieson Park. Robert Jamieson was an early Bulimba farmer and the park is part of a c1888 subdivision of his land. The plaque records that in 1914 Jamieson donated 1.6 hectares (four acres) of land to the Balmoral Shire Council. However, a title search for the property confirms that the land was transferred to the Balmoral Shire in 1904. On 1 November 1919, the park was officially opened by Mr WH Barnes MLA.

*The Brisbane Courier* on Wednesday 5 November 1919 reported that the opening of the park was 'the consummation of the desire of a small committee of residents to establish a suitable memorial to the heroes who left the district to help in the Great War' and 'the committee hoped that what was once an eyesore would become a joy to the community.'

Each tree is believed to have had a commemorative plaque honouring a serviceman killed in action, but none remain on site.

Since restoration by Colmslie RSL Sub-Branch club members in 1976, a number of these plaques are now held in safekeeping at the club's premises. Conversations with the late President of the Colmslie RSL Sub-Branch, Ernie Adsett, indicated that he'd had a long association with the park. He believed that the park and the trees continued to provide a fitting tribute to the men and women of the district who enlisted for World War I.

*The Courier Mail* of 5 April 1983 recorded that there were still some residents at that time who could remember planting the memorial trees. One such person was Mr Ollie Crouch, who was 83 at the time, and who recalled planting weeping figs around the perimeter.



National Trust drawings of the park trees dated c1983 held by the EPA list five names against particular trees in the park including I Telford, M Palfreyman, I Feeny, J Tait and C Mitchell.



The late Ernie Adsett with some of the memorial plaques from Bulimba Memorial Park and Balmoral Park (March 2006)

## Sources

*The Brisbane Courier*, 5 November 1919.

City Design, Brisbane City Council. *Bulimba Memorial Park Conservation Management Plan*. 2003.

*The Courier Mail* 5 April 1983.

Environmental Protection Agency,  
National Trust File drawing of Bulimba Memorial Park, Place ID 600180.

Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Heritage Register:  
<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html>

National Trust Queensland Citation BNE1/539

National Survey of War Memorials Judith McKay Collection, Fryer Library, University of Queensland, UQFL208.

## City Botanic Gardens, Alice Street, Brisbane



The grove of Gallipoli pines in the City Botanic Gardens. (January 2006)

### Description

Three Gallipoli pines stand on the southern corner of Palm Avenue in the City Botanic Gardens, walking from the rotunda towards Parliament House.

A plaque records their dedication by the former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Frank Sleeman in 1979. It reads: *'These Trees Were Raised From Seed Collected From The Lone Pine Region At Gallipoli Where Australian Troops Fought In 1915. Planted By The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor Of Brisbane, Alderman Frank Sleeman In The Presence Of Members Of The ANZAC Fountains Committee 26/4/79'*.

### History

These plants were grown at the City Botanic Gardens nursery in the 1970s on behalf of the Gallipoli Fountain of Honour Committee, who were planning to establish a Gallipoli memorial in the Roma Street precinct. According to Leo Walsh, curator of the Queensland Military Memorial Museum, the Gallipoli Fountain of Honour Committee was a special committee formed by the Gallipoli Legion of ANZACs (an organisation of Gallipoli veterans) for the project.<sup>1</sup> As noted above, members of the committee were present on 24 April 1979 when the trees were planted in the City Botanic Gardens and dedicated to the ANZAC troops by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Frank Sleeman.

It appears also that two other Gallipoli pines grown at the City Botanic Gardens were also given by the Gallipoli Fountain of Honour Committee to Victoria Barracks.<sup>2</sup>



The plaque marking the planting of the Gallipoli pines in the City Botanic Gardens.  
(January 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Queensland Military Memorial Museum.

<sup>2</sup>Major John Wright, Victoria Barracks Museum, January 2006.

Burke, Arthur. *The Gallipoli Fountain of Honour*.

[http://www.anzacday.org.au/education/stories/gallip\\_fountain.html](http://www.anzacday.org.au/education/stories/gallip_fountain.html)

Department of Veteran's Affairs. *Brisbane City Memorial Walk: Brisbane's Wartime History in Our Streets*. 2003.



## Country Women's Association Hall, School Road, Yeronga



A weeping fig commemorates Private T Markey outside the Country Women's Association Hall, School Road, Yeronga. (January 2006)

### Description

A weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) stands in front of the Country Women's Association Hall on School Road, Yeronga. It commemorates the death of Private Thomas Markey, who was killed in France on 14 November 1916. A white post bears a plaque with the inscription:

*'A Glorious Death Is His Who Dies For His Country. In Memory of Pte. T. Markey, ANZAC, killed in action, 14<sup>th</sup> November 1916. Planted by T. Markey, Sen.'*

The tree appears to be the original planted specimen.

### History

The National Archives of Australia website documents that Thomas Markey joined the AIF on 1 June 1915 and was sent to Gallipoli with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcement, 25th Battalion. He was embarked to France on 19 March 1916, wounded 29 July 1916 and was repatriated to England in August 1916. He rejoined his Battalion in France in October 1916 and was killed in action on 14 November 1916. He was buried at Walencourt New British Cemetery, SW Baupaume, France.

No further information is available regarding the date of planting. However, it is worth noting that there are several plantings in Brisbane dedicated to individuals by family or friends.



The plaque placed by T. Markey Snr. for his son,  
School Road, Yeronga.  
(January 2006)

## Sources

*The Sunday Mail*, 10 December 1978.

City Design, Brisbane City Council. *Yeronga Park Conservation Management Plan 2003*, 15.

National Archives of Australia website: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

## Diggers' Drive, Kalinga Park, Clayfield



Diggers' Drive, Kalinga Park (January 2006)

### Description

Diggers' Drive is a majestic avenue of trees approximately 1.2km long in Kalinga Park, Clayfield along the banks of Kedron Brook. The avenue is comprised mainly of large tallowwoods (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) but also includes some kauri pines (*Agathis robusta*) and other eucalypts. It is believed the tallowwoods were planted as memorial trees between March and May 1924. The trees were planted to honour the servicemen and women from the Kalinga area who did not return from the war.

Some have had to be removed over the years and four replacement tallowwoods were planted by Council in March 2006.

### History

Historian Elizabeth Nunn first became aware of the existence of the memorial planting in 1999 when she was asked to write a document *Historical Appraisal - Kalinga Greenspaces*, for the Nundah and Districts Historical Society, commissioned by Council. Her research uncovered the following story.

Diggers' Drive was the outcome of the efforts of the Kalinga Unemployed and Distressed Soldiers' Committee which was formed to lessen the extent of unemployment and distress among returned servicemen and their families. The committee arranged with the Kalinga Improvement Committee of the Toombul Shire Council that any soldiers sent by its members to the committee, were to be given work in road formation and drainage in Kalinga Park. In all 83 soldiers were employed and their work included the planting of 120 trees in Hendra and Kalinga Park.





Historian Elizabeth Nunn beside a memorial tallowwood,  
Diggers' Drive (January 2006)

The committee intended to identify the trees with the names of fallen soldiers who enlisted from the Kalinga Division by attaching permanent metal plates.

The drive with the trees in place, was officially opened by Lieutenant Governor Sir Matthew Nathan on 31 May 1924.

In the course of her research Elizabeth found that the road through the park was never actually formally recognised as Diggers' Drive and the plaques beside each tree never eventuated.

She suspects the plans to complete the project were overtaken by the amalgamation of Toombul Shire into the Brisbane City Council in 1925. The results of Elizabeth's findings and the photographs she located have been placed on a large sign which stands at the Park Road entrance. She is still attempting to gather the list of names of the soldiers from the district who did not return from the war, and if possible erect a plaque on the site.

Council has also undertaken actions in recent years to protect the health of the trees, including mulching around them, to which they have responded well. An ongoing maintenance program for the drive continues.

With the momentum created by the historical information uncovered by Elizabeth Nunn, Council moved to formally recognise the park road as Diggers' Drive on 1 May 2003. A public ceremony was held and a sign marking the event was unveiled. Diggers' Drive is now clearly marked in all Brisbane street directories.





This sign at the Park Road entrance explains the story of Diggers' Drive.  
(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Nunn)

## Sources

*The Brisbane Courier*, 2 June 1924.

*The Courier Mail*, 2 May 2003.

Toombul Shire Council Minutes 18 July 1922, 18 March 1924.

Conversations with Elizabeth Nunn, December 2005 and January 2006.

Historial Appraisal Kalinga Greenspaces – Nundah & Districts Historical Society Inc.

## Graceville Memorial Park, Graceville



The memorial planting of bunya pines and cottonwood trees, Graceville Memorial Park (January 2006)

### Description

Graceville Memorial Park lies between Graceville and Chelmer and is bounded by Oxley Road, Plumridge, and Appel Streets. Memorial trees line the park perimeter including bunya pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and cottonwood trees (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) planted alternately in one row, and an avenue of cabbage palms (*Livistona australis*), bauhinia (*Bauhinia variegata*), and chinese elms (*Celtis sinensis*). These lead towards the granite memorial near the Oxley Road entrance.

### History

Originally called Graceville Recreation Reserve, Graceville Memorial Park was gazetted in 1904. The erection of a war memorial and the planting of memorial trees were at the instigation of local resident Miss Ethel Lidgard of Graceville, who made the suggestion to the Sherwood Shire Council. Subsequently she was appointed by the Council as an organiser to collect donations. On 29 November 1920, Lieutenant Edwin Little of Corinda, a blind and disabled veteran of the war, unveiled the memorial. On the north face of the monument, a copper honour scroll contains the names of the 51 fallen soldiers and one sister who served with the colours in the Great War as representatives of the Sherwood Shire.<sup>1</sup>

The *Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir* paper (August 1924, page 182) documents that the grounds were planted with 53 bunya pines and cottonwood trees and were dedicated to the soldiers of the district who were killed in World War I<sup>1</sup>. However, the report, *Graceville Memorial Park Conservation Study*, indicates that 52 bunya pines were

planted<sup>4</sup>. Despite the discrepancy in the number of trees planted, many of the original trees remain today. The trees were planted along the whole length of Plumridge Street and along Appel Street (Graceville Parade as it was then called). Some local residents have suggested that there used to be commemorative plaques on many of the trees<sup>2</sup>, but apparently these were stolen and melted down during the Depression in the 1930s.



The avenue looking towards Oxley Road from the memorial (January 2006)

A second memorial planting was formed along the southern edge of the park from Oxley Road leading to the granite memorial and then on to Graceville Parade (now Appel Street). The drive no longer continues through to Appel Street. The avenue was lined with alternating bauhinia (*Bauhinia variegata*), cabbage palms (*Livistona australis*) and chinese elms (*Celtis sinensis*). Some have been replaced in recent years.

The avenue's tree canopies are clearly visible in 1946 aerial imagery of the park.





The monument at Graceville Memorial Park (October 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>*Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir.1823-1923.* Brisbane Centenary Celebrations Committee.1924, 182.

<sup>2</sup> Personal communication by Miles Farmer, Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch Inc to Councillor Jane Prentice, 9 October 2001.

Brisbane City Council 1946 digital aerial image mosaic.

<sup>3</sup> Conversation with Councillor Jane Prentice, Councillor for Walter Taylor Ward.

<sup>4</sup>Brouwer, Catherine. *Graceville Memorial Park Conservation Study.* Brisbane City Council.1996.

<sup>5</sup> Sherwood-Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch Inc.

<sup>6</sup> *The Local News*, April 2000.

The Australian National Archives website: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)



## Memorial Avenue, Wynnum State High School, Wynnum



Cadets on guard at restoration and enhancement service for the Memorial Avenue, Wynnum State High School, 24 April 1998 (Photo courtesy of Myrtle Beitz)

### Description

In 1920, hoop pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and cocos palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) were planted to form an avenue of honour dedicated to the memory of the men from the Wynnum district who died in World War I. The trees were planted in what was then known as Russell Park by Mayor Richard Russell and his friend William De Lange. The trees were planted on both sides of the roadway which threaded its way from Peel Street to the northern entrance at Andrew Street. Beside each tree a wooden cross was erected bearing a metal plaque and the name of a fallen soldier.

As at March 2006, fourteen hoop pines and eight cocos palms remain.

### History

In 1918, as Secretary of the Wynnum Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Society, Richard Russell, together with other members of the committee, cleared and drained the area known as Russell Park, to form showgrounds. Alderman Russell allowed the improved grounds to be known as Memorial Park. Over time the plaques and crosses erected next to the trees mysteriously disappeared. In a 1927 letter to the Council, the Wynnum-Manly Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) asked the Council to investigate the disappearance of some of the plaques. Council attributed the disappearance to 'hooligans'. Council had no records of the names on the plaques, so replacement was not possible.

In the early 1940s the government of the day exchanged a parcel of land at Primrose Hill for a large portion of Memorial Park and built Wynnum High School and Intermediate School on the site. Older district residents remember, as students in the 1940s, placing wreaths and flowers at the foot of the trees with plaques on Anzac Day.

In the 1990s through the efforts of RSL life members Terry Trusswell and Merv Beitz OAM, a list of the Wynnum-Manly district's fallen servicemen, from the South African (Boer) War to the Vietnam War, was compiled. On 24 April 1998, a ceremony was held to mark the restoration and enhancement of Memorial Avenue and the unveiling of new plaques honouring the men of the district who died in all conflicts.

The enhancement was in the form of an obelisk bearing the names of these men, and erected at the Peel Street entrance to the school and Memorial Drive. The school made replacement crosses for the trees and reaffirmed its commitment as custodians of the Memorial Drive. The ceremony took place at Wynnum State High School. A descendant of Mayor Richard Russell attending Wynnum High School planted a young hoop pine.

The project was instigated by Merv Beitz OAM, and completed through the joint efforts of the Wynnum-Manly Historical Society, the Wynnum RSL Sub-Branch, the Wynnum-Manly Rotary Club, Wynnum State High School, and the Federal Government's 'Their Service Our Heritage' scheme.



The entrance to the Memorial Avenue at Wynnum State High School  
(March 2006)

## Sources

Beitz, Myrtle. *Mangroves to Moorings Revisited: the early development of the Wynnum, Manly and Lota district depicted through records of events, stories and photographs of people and places*. Brisbane: 2005.

Correspondence Brisbane City Council to Wynnum-Manly R.S.S.I.L.A., 13 January, 1928, Brisbane City Council Park History files.

Correspondence Wynnum-Manly R.S.S.I.L.A. to Brisbane City Council 17 September 1927, Council Parks History files.

Speech by Merv Beitz, Ceremony for the Restoration and Enhancement of Memorial Drive, 24 April 1998.



## National Memorial Walk, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera



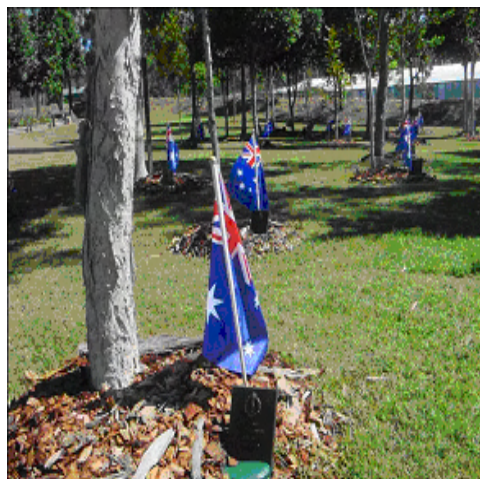
This aerial photograph taken around 2000 shows the layout of the National Memorial Walk.  
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Gibbons).

### Description

The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) National Memorial Walk (NMW) is a 'living' memorial to commemorate those soldiers who have died while serving overseas with the Regiment. It provides a place of solace and focus within Australia for the commemoration and contemplation of the sacrifices made by its men.

The Regiment has seen active service in Korea, Malaya, Malaysia/Sarawak, South Vietnam and is currently involved in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In recent times it has been involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

The NMW consists of a 700 metre avenue surrounded by more than 1000 native Australian trees. Many species have been planted including hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*). The path is divided into past and current operational theatre areas. At the base of selected trees is a gunmetal plaque bearing the name and service details of each regimental soldier who lost his life in overseas service. As at May 2007, there are 690 plaques.



Memorial trees with plaques at the NMW  
(Photo courtesy of RAR Association)



A contemplation building is used for remembrance services and quiet reflection.  
(December 2005)

## History

The NMW concept originated with Mick Servos OAM, a Korean War veteran, who after visiting Australian soldiers' gravesites in Korea decided to organise a memorial tree grove at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, home to most RAR units who served in Korea.

A committee was formed and in 1996 work commenced on Army approved land with funds provided by public donation, assistance from the Federal and Queensland Governments, Brisbane City Council, RAR State and Unit Association members and the defence community.

Plantings began on 9 November 1996 with almost 1000 trees planted by members of the RAR Association Queensland, RAR Battalion Associations and their wives and families. The trees, donated by the Brisbane City Council, were chosen with advice from Greening Australia and planted in operational areas to represent similar landscapes.



Later aerial photo of the National Memorial Walk shown in 2002  
(Council Bimap 2002).



In November 1997 the then Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon Tim Fischer (a member of the Regiment and veteran of the South Vietnam War) unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the NMW.

The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Sir William Deane AC KBE, dedicated the NMW on 22 November 1998 coinciding with the Regiment's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The memorial has been continuously maintained by a dedicated group of RAR Association volunteers who call themselves "Dad's Army". Visitors from within Australia and overseas come to reflect in its quiet, leafy surrounds.

The site can be viewed on the Royal Australian Regiment Association's website at <http://www.rar.org.au/NationalMemorials.html>



The Royal Australian Regiment Roll of Honour Wall, NMW, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.  
(December 2005)

## Sources

Correspondence, Department of Defence Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group.

Royal Australian Regiment Association, Queensland Division. *National Memorial Walk 1998* (unpublished report).

Royal Australian Regiment Association [www.rar.org.au](http://www.rar.org.au)

## River City Family Church, Settlement Road, The Gap



The single Gallipoli Pine, River City Family Church grounds, Settlement Road, The Gap (March 2006)

### **Description**

A Gallipoli pine planted on 25 April 1970 stands in the grounds of the River City Family Church, at Settlement Road, The Gap.

It is dedicated to all those who fell at Lone Pine in Gallipoli.

At the time of planting the property was owned by The Gap RSL Sub-Branch. A memorial plaque marks the occasion.



Plaque in front of the Gallipoli pine at the River City Family Church  
(March 2006)

## History

The River City Family Church cleared the area around the Gallipoli pine when the church acquired the property from the RSL in 1998. The Gap RSL Sub-Branch members restored the memorial plaque and placed it at the base of the tree.

Pastor Peter Constantine says the church maintains the area as a place of remembrance, and it continues to be used by The Gap Sub-Branch of the RSL today for ceremonial occasions such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. The Sub-Branch also has a number of other commemoration days throughout the year where a member will fly a flag and lay a wreath. One such event is the commemoration of Australian nurses who were killed on Bangka Island off the coast of Sumatra in World War II.

## Sources

Neil de la Rue, Honorary Secretary, The Gap RSL Sub-Branch.

Pastor Peter Constantine, River City Family Church.



## Salisbury State School, Salisbury



Salisbury State School's memorial garden, with the Lone Pine on the right.  
(March 2006)

### Description

A single Lone Pine seedling was planted in a special memorial garden at Salisbury State School on 27 August 2001.

### History

The following information was provided by Salisbury State School:

In 2000 a fire destroyed Salisbury State School's frog garden which had been created by a year four class who were studying frogs in the local area. The Garden Club had invested a lot of time and effort looking after the frogs and their habitat.

After the fire the Garden Club was looking for a new project. Having heard about the Lone Pine, teacher Annette Ferguson contacted Chad Sherrin of Legacy who provided advice about caring for the Lone Pine seedling.

On 27 August 2001, a living memorial to the Anzac legend was dedicated. The seedling was planted by two students, Bradley and Victor, who were members of the Garden Club. Chad Sherrin and Alex Schultz of Brisbane Legacy and Ian Caverswall of the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee (Qld) Inc assisted the students. The tree was provided to the school by Brisbane Legacy and originated from the pine cone brought home from Gallipoli at the end of the war by Sergeant Keith McDowell.

The memorial garden now provides the focal point of the school's commemoration on Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and other memorial services. On Remembrance Day 2001, the memorial garden was chosen to host the launch of the 'We Remember' kits produced by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The plaque was designed and



constructed by the staff and students of the school in conjunction with the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee and Brisbane Legacy.



Salisbury State School students standing beside the Lone Pine  
(March 2006)



Plaque adjacent to the Lone Pine at Salisbury State School  
(March 2006)

## Sources

*The Times*, 2 September 2001.

## Sherwood Uniting Church, Sherwood Road, Sherwood



A single cabbage palm commemorates Sergeant William Henry Cooling, Sherwood Uniting Church (March 2006)

### Description

A single cabbage tree palm (*Livistonia australis*) in the grounds of Sherwood Uniting Church commemorates Sergeant William Henry Cooling, who died at Gallipoli on 22 October 1915. The tree stands in the north-western corner of the church grounds. A simple brass plaque bears the sergeant's name and the single word - Gallipoli.

The significance of the tree is noted by the Oxley – Chelmer History Group in their publication *Sherwood – Corinda Walkabout*.<sup>1</sup>

### History

There is currently a lack of information available on the history of this tree, one of a number of trees in Brisbane which commemorates individuals. However, it is likely that the tree is dedicated to the same Sergeant William Henry Cooling whose name is listed on the WW I honour roll for Sherwood Shire at the obelisk in Graceville Memorial Park.



Sergeant William Henry Cooling is remembered with a simple brass plaque.  
(March 2006)

### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup>Fones, Ralph. *Sherwood-Corinda Walkabout*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxley-Chelmer History Group, Corinda 2000, 3.



## St Paul's School, Bald Hills



Gallipoli pine, St Paul's School (March 2006)

### Description

The Gallipoli pine at St Paul's School stands near the Clock Tower in the Garden of Remembrance. It was planted in April 1999.

### History

In 1998 the Australian War Memorial Foundation established an Anzac Day Schools program in which all Australian schools were encouraged to participate by becoming members, raising funds to assist the redevelopment of the memorial's galleries. One of the benefits of becoming a member was the gift of a Lone Pine seedling grown from the Gallipoli tree to become a focal point for the school's Anzac Day ceremony. The tree arrived at the school on 25 March 1999 and was installed in its new home.

In 2002, accompanied by a new Wall of Remembrance, the area was designated as a place of quiet reflection for each Anzac Day. The area is also the site of the old barn, which was the hub of the school's social, spiritual and cultural activity for 26 years until it was demolished at the end of 1986 to improve the environs of the new Physical Education centre. The Old Boy's plaque marking the centre of the barn is now attached to the western side of the Wall of Remembrance.

### Sources

St Paul's School Gazette.

## Stewart Place, Waterworks and Stewart Roads, Ashgrove



The 1997 Gallipoli pine stands in Stewart Place near the intersection of Waterworks and Stewart Roads, Ashgrove. (December 2005)

### Description

A single Gallipoli pine (*Pinus halepensis*) dedicated to the memory of all ANZACs stands in Stewart Place, Ashgrove, in a small park adjacent to Waterworks Road. An original planting of a Gallipoli pine on the site in the mid-1990s, did not survive and was replaced in May 1997. A plaque marks the occasion of the second planting. In March 2007 the above pictured Lone Pine died and has since been replaced by a younger specimen sourced from the Yarralumla Nursery in Canberra.

### History

The Gallipoli pine growing in Stewart Place, Ashgrove is a descendant of the tree at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Stewart Place was gazetted as a reserve for park (Soldier's Memorial) purposes in 1962. The late Denis Bauer of Ashgrove (son of a Gallipoli veteran) provided a Gallipoli pine to the Ashgrove RSL Sub-Branch in the mid-1990s, which was planted in Stewart Place, but it did not survive.<sup>1</sup>

Harry Bevan of the Ashgrove RSL Sub-Branch recalls that in May 1997, their committee planted a replacement tree. This tree also came from the Yarralumla Nursery in Canberra, which propagates trees from seeds collected from the Australian War Memorial tree. The current plaque was put in place on 28 October 1998.<sup>2</sup>



A plaque commemorates the ANZACs by the Ashgrove RSL Sub-Branch (December 2005)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>*The Western Echo*, May 2004.

<sup>2</sup>Information supplied by Harry Bevan, Ashgrove sub-branch RSL.

Conversation with Brian Hallinan, former Councillor for The Gap Ward.



## Tennyson Memorial Avenue, Tennyson



Tennyson Memorial Avenue (January 2006)

### Description

Tennyson Memorial Avenue (formerly Tennyson Road), is believed to have been first planted with memorial trees soon after World War I, followed by a planting after World War II on 11 September 1949, and a third memorial planting in 1993.

None of these memorial plantings remain today, although the trees have been replaced on the site. Today the larger trees on the railway side of the avenue are brush box trees that were planted by the Council in the early 1990s. Replanting of this site is a high priority due to the extensive loss of original trees.

### History

In her book *Memories Along the Boggo Track*, Annie MacKenzie records that the first planting was to commemorate servicemen from World War I.<sup>1</sup>

According to a local resident, two elderly Yeronga residents (now deceased), told her that in the first planting, trees were planted as World War I memorials on both sides of the road, which they referred to as Anzac Avenue. The details and date of the plantings are not known. An aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows virtually no roadside trees, so it seems likely that the majority were gone by then. Local resident, Mr Lindsay Dyball believes that the area was used as a staging camp during WWII and perhaps the removal of trees occurred at that time to make way for the camp and upgrade of road and rail facilities.

In 1986, only two bronze plaques with the names MH Warner and AS Neilson remained on the site as well four concrete posts. Today only a single concrete post remains.

In a 1999 *Southern News* article, Yeronga resident Cliff Phillips said he believed plaques were laid on the site to commemorate the World War I soldiers. He could recall driving along Tennyson Memorial Avenue as a teenager with his father who told him the plaques were dedicated to soldiers of World War I.<sup>2</sup>

In the same story, the then Yeronga-Dutton Park RSL Sub-Branch Senior Vice-President George Westby said that plaques had been laid by the Tennyson RSL Sub-Branch. Mr Ron Riddel, patron of the Sub-Branch recalled that there were plaques on both sides of the road in the 1950s and that on Anzac Day, scouts, cubs and pipers marched there with RSL members.

*The Courier Mail* reported the second planting in 1949 which was sponsored by the Tennyson RSL Sub-Branch and took place on 11 September, in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Chandler. At that event the Tennyson RSL Sub-Branch invited all ex-servicemen in the district to plant and care for a tree. One hundred yellow laburnum (*Cassia fistula*) trees were planted from the Yeerongpilly end of the road to the Tennyson end.<sup>3</sup>

The third memorial planting occurred in 1993. According to Brisbane Golf Club member, John Leslie, at the club's instigation, the Superintendent of the Brisbane Golf Club replanted part of the avenue then with ivory curl trees (*Buckinghamia celsissima*) in consultation with the (now defunct) Tennyson RSL Sub-Branch. However, these trees have not survived.

Two timber signs once stood at each end of the avenue and recorded the district's gratitude to the soldiers of both wars. The text on the signs reads:

*'To The Memory Of Those Who Fell In The Empire's Wars. This Avenue Was Planted By The Tennyson Sub-Branch Of The R.S.S.A.I.L.A On The 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1949.'*

These two signs now stand in the nearby RSL Memorial Park in Myla Terrace, Tennyson. Local resident Mr Dyball, believes the signs date from the World War I planting, but were possibly repainted to include the reference to the World War II planting.



Memorial signs visible in background, RSL Memorial Park, Myla Terrace, Tennyson (January 2006)



Wooden signpost at RSL Memorial Park (October 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Mackenzie, Annie. *Memories Along the Boggo Track*. Brisbane: Boolarong Publications, 1992, 70.

<sup>2</sup> *Southern News*, 11 November 1999, 18 November 1999.

<sup>3</sup>*The Courier-Mail*, 26 August 1949.

Brisbane City Council 1946 digital aerial image mosaic.

Conversation with John Leslie, 26 March 2006.

Conversation with L. Dyball, 21 March 2006.

National Survey of War Memorials. Judith McKay Collection. Fryer Library UQFL208.



## The Anglican Church Grammar School, 'Churchie', East Brisbane



One of the Gallipoli pines at Churchie (January 2006)

### Description

Five Gallipoli pines have been planted at the Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) since 1979. The first planting took place on 25 April 1979, when a pine was planted between the library and the chapel. The second and third plantings occurred in 1989, with one tree being planted at the Preparatory School and the other in an area known as 'The Flat'. In 2004 another two pines were presented to the school.

### History

The following information was supplied by the Anglican Church Grammar School.

Since the late 1970s five Gallipoli pines have been planted at Churchie. The first Gallipoli pine was given to the school in 1979 and was planted by a junior naval and junior army cadet at that year's Anzac Day service. The pine was presented to the school by Mr Allan Campbell CMG, Chairman of the Gallipoli Fountain of Honour Committee and was planted between the library and the chapel. The timing suggests the tree may also have been propagated from plants grown at the City Botanic Gardens nursery. Initially the tree grew well, but eventually succumbed to 'wet feet' and died.

In 1989, two more pines were presented to Churchie. One was planted at the Preparatory School and the other overlooking 'The Flat'. The one planted at the Preparatory School died but the pine overlooking the school's war memorial on 'The Flat' survived and continues to thrive. In November 2004 another two pines were presented to the school in

honour of the men from South Brisbane/Coorparoo area and former Churchie students of the 2/15 Battalion who fought at El Alamein and Tobruk during World War II.



Plaque in front of one of the Gallipoli pines at Churchie.  
The inscription reads: 'Aleppo Pine. Descendant Of The Original  
Lone Pine Of Gallipoli. Presented By Legacy'.  
(January 2006)

## Sources

Correspondence A. R. Townsend Deputy Headmaster, Churchie, to J. McKay Consultant for the Queensland War Memorials Survey. 4 April 1985. Judith Mckay Collection, Fryer Library, UQFL208.



## The National *Australia Remembers* Freedom Wall, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha



The National *Australia Remembers* Freedom Wall, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha (January 2004).  
Photo courtesy of Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

### Description

The National *Australia Remembers* Freedom Wall is a monument to peace and to all those who have brought and continue to bring peace and freedom to Australia and the Pacific.<sup>1</sup> It is located high on a ridge within the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha.

The *Australia Remembers* 1945-1995 was a program of activities organised to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, culminating in key national ceremonies held in Brisbane on 15 August 1995 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in the Pacific.<sup>2</sup>

The Freedom Wall takes the form of two long walls, which intersect with a circular central wall on which 15,600 brass plaques are positioned. These plaques were placed by family, friends and members of the community to remember lost loved ones or as a simple expression of thanks. The wall and its surrounding remembrance gardens are dedicated to 'peace'.

Standing within the Freedom Wall, two stately small-fruited figs (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*) grow and filter sunlight on the walls and decking.

### History

The National *Australia Remembers* Freedom Wall was unveiled on 11 November 1996 by the former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Jim Soorley, to mark 60 years of peace in the Pacific after the end of World War II.



As a memorial for all Australians, the gardens of remembrance were designed to honour and commemorate the efforts of Australian's during World War II conflicts in Europe, Northern Africa, Asia and many of the Pacific nations.

From August to October 1996, the remembrance gardens were planted with 1600 tribute plants, and were designed to symbolise three arenas of Australian involvement during World War II. These plantings represent:

- *The Divide – Crossing to Foreign Lands* – represents and reminds visitors that Australian Forces had to travel overseas to fight in foreign countries. Plants used in this area include grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea sp.*), prickly rasp fern (*Doodia aspera*), she-oak (*Casuarina torulosa*), lomandra (*Lomandra longifolia*) and Murray Island pine (*Callitris columellaris*).
- *The Land* – the use of contrasting low growing plants within two rows of flat stones represent battles fought in trenches. The variety of plants here includes: swamp foxtail (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*), liriopse (*Liriope spicata*) and spotted gum (*Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata*)
- *The Sea* – blue and white grasses moving in the breeze are used in this display. Some of the planted species include dietes (*Dietes iridioides*), small-fruited grey gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*), spotted gum (*Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata*) and liriopse (*Liriope spicata*).



Planting of Remembrance garden  
(October 1996)

Photo courtesy of Brisbane Botanic Gardens.



Early plantings – view from window (October 1996)  
Photo courtesy of Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>'A peaceful Monday in the Gardens' and 'People, plantings and plaques' – tour notes, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha – Brenda McCarthy, 2006.

<sup>2</sup>Guide to the Australian Historical Events and Commemorations Collection, Collection number: Souvenirs 7, Australian War Memorial. 2005

<http://www.awm.gov.au/findingaids/>

National *Australia Remembers* Freedom Wall flyer, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha.

## The Woods Memorial Playground, Royal Parade, St. John's Wood



The tall kauri which commemorates Clifford Hopgood,  
The Woods Memorial Playground. (December 2005)

### Description

A single kauri pine (*Agathis robusta*) stands behind an upright Mt Coot-tha bluestone boulder to commemorate Flight Sergeant Clifford Berger Hopgood. The memorial stands in a leafy children's playground on the banks of Enoggera Creek, facing north, and the boulder is 1.6 metres high. It bears a plaque with the inscription:

*'To The Memory Of Flt/Sgt Clifford Berger Hopgood, Killed In Action Over Occupied Europe 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1944. This Tree Was Planted By His Friends Of St. John's Wood'*

### History

A local resident Marjorie Summerville recalls being present at the planting of the memorial tree to Clifford Hopgood and the placement of the seat with the plaque sometime after World War II. According to the Council Park History File for the site, the seat was destroyed (possibly by vandals) and the plaque re-erected on the large Mt Coot-tha bluestone boulder one week before Anzac Day in 1974.

Former St. John's Wood resident and Councillor for the Gap Ward, Brian Hallinan believes that the planting occurred sometime in the early 1950s. The 'friends' referred to on the plaque were an informal group of St. John's Wood residents.





Clifford Hopgood's plaque in the Mt. Coot-tha bluestone boulder  
(December 2005)



The boulder in front of the memorial tree,  
The Woods Memorial Playground (December 2005)

## Sources

Brisbane City Council Park History Files.

National Survey of War Memorials. Judith McKay Collection. Fryer Library University of Queensland, UQFL208.



## Toowong Memorial Park, Sylvan Road, Toowong



The cocos palm avenue in Toowong Memorial Park (March 2006)

### Description

A memorial avenue of palms was planted in Toowong Park (as it was then known), in September 1918, two months before the end of World War I. The avenue consisted of cocos palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), of which 50 remain today. Thirty-six stand in a double row leading from the memorial gates on Sylvan Road. These palms were transplanted from their original position in 1989. There are a further 14 cocos palms at the edge of the football oval which were part of the original double avenue planting leading up from Sylvan Road to the memorial on the hill.

The Council Conservation Management Study Site Report 2002 states that one of the trees was apparently planted in memory of 'Bomber' Bert Richards of the 25th Battalion who died in France.<sup>1</sup> There is possibly another memorial for this serviceman at Anzac Park, Toowong.

Nine cocos palms also remain of what was once a small circle of palms around the memorial itself. On the other side of the hill where the memorial stands, are some remaining trees of an avenue of seven hoop pines (*Aruacaria cunninghamii*), which climbs

the hill from Dixon Street. The history and memorial status of both these latter plantings is unknown.

## History

Toowong Memorial Park is an extensive wedge of open parkland occupying a prominent stony ridge west of the Ipswich-Brisbane railway line. Originally known as Toowong Park, the reserve was dedicated as a park by the Toowong Shire Council on 7 September 1918. With the dedication of the Toowong Soldiers Memorial on 2 July 1922, it became known as Toowong Memorial Park.<sup>2</sup> The memorial gates on Sylvan Road are not in their original position. The June 1960 Council minutes records the decision to move the gates from their previous position west of the current site, to form an entrance to the avenue of memorial palms.



The memorial with some of the palm circle in the background, Toowong Memorial Park (January 2006)



The new monument with the park gates in the background (October 2006)



The new monument on Sylvan Road (October 2006)



Gate pillar on Sylvan Road (October 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Brisbane City Council. *Toowong Memorial Park Conservation Management Study Site Report*. April 2002, 6.

<sup>2</sup>*ibid.*, 5.

Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, Citation for Toowong Memorial Park at Toowong.



## Victoria Barracks, Brisbane



The Gallipoli pine planted in 1979 overlooking Countess Street, Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace. (January 2006)

### Description

Two trees stand as memorials at Victoria Barracks, a Gallipoli pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and a Bribie Island pine (*Callitris collumellaris*). The Gallipoli pine is planted on a grassy slope overlooking Countess Street, and the Bribie Island pine is outside the current Victoria Barracks Museum.

There is a plaque at the base of both trees which reads: '*This tree planted by Col. CM Townsend DSO was grown from a seed of the now famous Lone Pine from the Lone Pine Ridge, Gallipoli. The seed, donated by the Gallipoli Fountain of Honour Committee was germinated by the staff of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens.*' The second Gallipoli Pine did not survive and was replaced some years ago by the Bribie Island pine.

On top of the plaques are the words "*Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo pine) planted 14 Feb '79".







Bribie Island pine (*Callitris columellaris*) outside the Victoria Barracks Museum. (March 2006)

## History

From the plaques it is known that two Gallipoli pines provided by the Gallipoli Legion of ANZACs were planted in the grounds of Victoria Barracks on 14 February 1979 by Colonel CM Townsend DSO. The tree on the slope is one of the two original Gallipoli pines planted in 1979. The Bribie Island pine outside the museum was planted several years ago and is now quite advanced, standing approximately eight to nine metres tall.



The plaque beneath the tree at Victoria Barracks. (January 2006)

## Sources

Queensland Military Memorial Museum.

Victoria Barracks Museum.

Queensland Heritage Register.

## Wynnum Road, Cannon Hill



Wynnum Road, Cannon Hill, 1 April 1959 with palm trees in the background thought, to be part of the World War I memorial planting (Brisbane City Council ref no. B54-11761. Brisbane Images).

### Description

After World War I, Cocos palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) were planted along Wynnum Road, Cannon Hill which was then known as New Cleveland Road. They were planted on both sides of the road, from the Morningside Anglican Church to Creek Road. Metal plaques were attached to each tree with the names of local men who served in World War I. The number of trees planted is unknown. Council removed the palms on the north side in the 50s and 60s, when Wynnum Road was widened.

### History

The sole source of information on this planting that could be found was from local historian Ronietta Wakefield's book *Cannon Hill School of Arts 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1923-1998*. In it she records that over the years the memorial palms on the southern side of Wynnum Road were constantly damaged by children using the fronds as a merry-go-round.

She writes that it was thought that all the plaques from the palm trees had disappeared, but one was found in the rubble when shops adjacent to the School of Arts were demolished. She recounts that local resident Harry Norton rummaged around the debris and found a battered bronze plaque with the inscription: '*Enlisted Campbell M Kerr 1914 AIF 1918*'.

### Sources

Brisbane City Council Brisbane Images.

Wakefield, Ronietta. *Cannon Hill School of Arts 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1923-1998*.

## Yeronga Memorial Park, Ipswich and Park Roads, Yeronga



Honour Avenue, Yeronga Memorial Park, from the Park Road entrance. (January 2006)

### Description

Honour Avenue, Yeronga is to date the earliest known planting in Brisbane of memorial trees to soldiers who died in the Great War. It was established between September 1917 and August 1919 through the park linking the Park Road and the Ipswich Road memorial entrance gates. There is an unusual dedication on these gates to the women from the Stephens Shire and it recognises their role in World War I.

Ninety-six trees were planted in the park at three separate plantings in that period. The plantings were known to have included the mature weeping figs (*Ficus benjamina*) that stand in Honour Avenue today and also flame trees (*Brachychiton acerifolus*). A newly planted tree that appears to be a flame tree is pictured in the photograph of the 1918 planting with the Councillors' wives (see photo), but these have not survived.

The plantings commemorate the 96 servicemen of Stephens Shire who lost their lives in World War I. According to an unsigned letter to Council in 1988 in the park's history file, 41 trees were planted on 15 September 1917, 31 trees on 26 July 1918, and 24 on 23 August 1919, making 96 in total.<sup>1</sup> These same planting dates are also listed on the Stephens Shire honour board along with a facsimile of the original metal shield plaque.

The commemorative plaques were fixed to a small timber post placed near each tree. There are now small polished stone commemorative plaques beneath each tree.



Additional weeping figs (*Ficus benjamina*) and leopard trees (*Ceasalpinea ferrea*) have been planted in the avenue over the years along Honour Avenue to replace missing trees. The timing of the white fig (*Ficus virens*) planting in the avenue is unknown.



The second planting in Yeronga Park on 26 July 1918 was dedicated by the Governor General Major Sir Hamilton John Goold-Adams.

Photo from *The Queenslander* 27 July 1918  
(State Library of Queensland neg no. 69466.)

## History

Avenues of Honour commemorating World War I were a memorial form unique to Australia. The plantings were seen as commemorative monuments of practical worth, contributing to the environment and were valued for both their shade and aesthetic value. Usually, trees that would grow tall, and be large and prominent – often fig trees and pines – were planted in lines or groves to form a strong presence in a street setting. The trees in Honour, Avenue Yeronga are a fine example of this, and the avenue is thought to be the second oldest memorial planting in Australia.<sup>2</sup>

*The Queenslander* of 22 September 1917 reported that 'On Saturday afternoon at Yeronga Park, an impressive ceremony consisting of the planting of an avenue of trees was performed by the chairman of Stephens Shire Council, Councillor FA Stimpson. The idea was initiated by the Council, as an honour to the residents of the shire, who had paid the supreme sacrifice in the great world war.'

In fact, of the 599 residents of Stephens Shire who enlisted, 96 lost their lives. The 599 enlistments represented 5.4% of the total shire population and 14% of the adult population. The 96 deaths represented 16.02% of enlistments.<sup>3</sup>

Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson who represented the State Commandant, Brigadier-General Irving, attended the planting ceremony and spoke of the local men's gallantry. After the speech the departed men's next of kin planted the trees. Councillor Stimpson planted a tree in the memory of Robert Douglas whose relatives could not attend, and

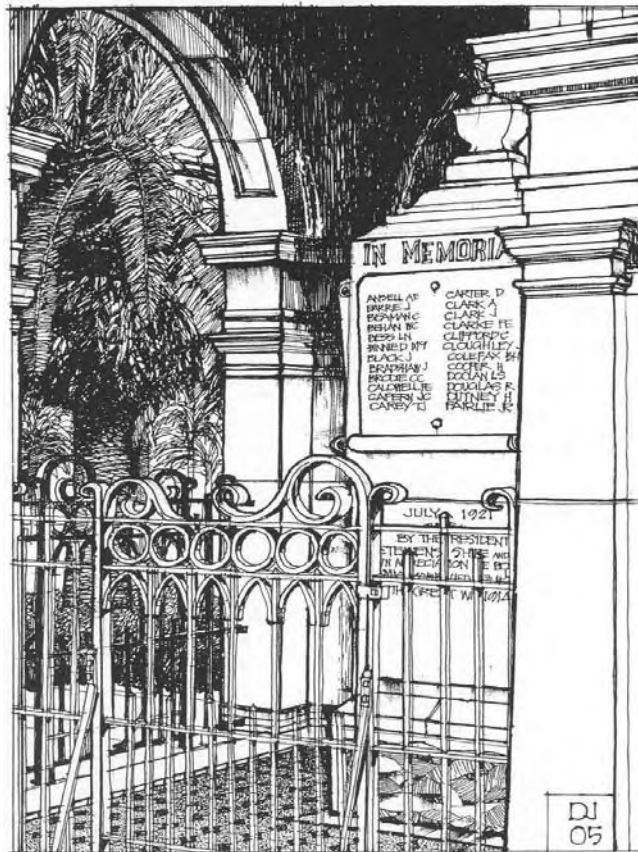
Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson planted one in memory of James Fielding whose relatives were in England.



Councillors' wives gathered around the memorial tree dedicated to Marshall Jury, Yeronga Park, 1918. They are decorating the trees with wreaths. Photo from *The Queenslander* 27 July 1918. (State Library of Queensland neg no. 69467)

Over the years a number of the trees have been lost and replaced. Council correspondence from 1934 and 1936 with the Yeronga RSL Sub-Branch and RSSILA indicate that replacement trees were planted by the Parks Superintendent at that time, and that missing plaques were requested to be replaced. There is a line of palms between School Road and the memorial called Anzac Avenue.

In the mid-1990s, the Stephens RSL Sub-Branch took on the major task of replacing lost or damaged plaques with the polished stone plaques which are now in place. The idea to replace the plaques came from Joe Kelly, the then Vice-President. Joe collated the names of those 96 soldiers from Stephens Shire who did not return from the war from the honour boards now housed in the Sub-Branch's rooms. These honour boards list every serviceman from the district, and a crown distinguishes those who gave their lives. Joe Kelly and other members of the Sub-Branch, including Norm Ballard and Jim Clarkson, placed the plaques in concrete blocks under the trees in Honour Avenue as well as under other trees in the area adjacent to the domed memorial pavilion. These included the palms that line the footpath to the memorial and other palms in the open memorial lawn area near Ipswich Road.



World War I Memorial Yeronga Memorial Park.  
Original drawing courtesy of the artist, Daniel Joynes.

The Stephens RSL Sub-Branch also placed a plaque to the unknown soldier, which is set at the base of the flagpole adjacent to the memorial. Every year they hold their Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies in Yeronga Memorial Park.

Also each year just before Anzac Day, the Yeronga State School hold a commemoration ceremony in the school grounds which is attended by members of the Yeronga-Dutton Park RSL Sub-Branch.

Stan Crisp, honorary secretary of Yeronga-Dutton Park RSL Sub-Branch advised that after the school ceremony, the students move into the avenue, and stand in class groups with the veterans at individual memorial trees while the names of the fallen servicemen are read out on the school loudspeaker.

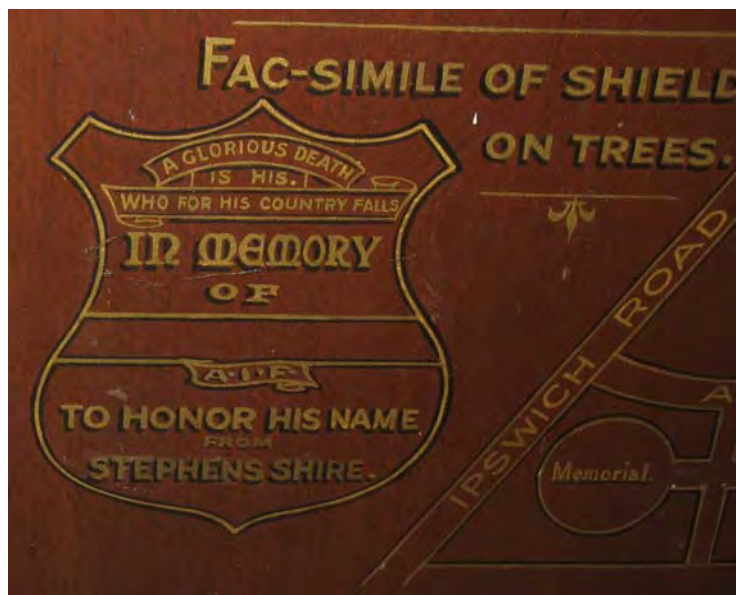
Each class is allocated a tree to stand around and they also bring their own individual bouquets that they place around the trees. This practice is part of a long-standing tradition by the Yeronga primary students.

A regular mulching program for the Avenue of Honour trees has been undertaken by Council and is greatly improving their health. New fig trees have been planted to replace missing trees.





Norm Ballard and Ron Viles of Stephens RSL Sub-branch with the honour boards which commemorate those who enlisted from Stephens Shire. (March 2006)



The design of the original plaques used in Yeronga Park as shown on the Stephens RSL Sub-Branch honour board. (March 2006)

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Unsigned letter to Council, Brisbane City Council Park History Files.

<sup>2</sup>Brisbane City Council. *Yeronga Park Conservation Management Plan*. 2003, 23.

<sup>3</sup>Honour Boards, Stephens Sub-Branch RSL.

<sup>4</sup>Mackenzie, Annie. *Memories Along the Boggo Track*. Brisbane: Boolarong Publications. 1992, 33.

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<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html>

*The Queenslander*, 22 September 1917.

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Norm Ballard, Ron Viles and Jim Clakson, Stephens Sub-Branch Returned Services League.

Stan Crisp, Dutton Park/Yeronga Sub-Branch Returned Services League.

Yeronga State School.

## List of Abbreviations

AC	Companion in the Order of Australia
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
ANZAC	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
CMG	Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George
Council	Brisbane City Council
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
KBE	Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
KCMG	Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished order of St Michael and St George
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NMW	National Memorial Walk, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera
OAM	Order of Australia Medal
RAR	Royal Australian Regiment
RSL	Returned and Services League of Australia
RSSILA	Returned Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League Australia (later RSL)
VD	Volunteer Decoration





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Printed on  
recycled paper



N2007-01831  
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