



## Memorials, Symbols and Commemoration



*Telling the Anzac Story*

**Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum**

# Memorials, Commemoration and Symbols



Beaudesert Memorial

E-book written by Janis Hanley 2016  
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for the Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum  
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This book, designed for primary school students,  
explores elements of World War 1 memorials and  
their meaning.

Memorials featured are from the Gold Coast, Scenic  
Rim, Brisbane and Southern Downs.



Boonah Memorial Park

*Dedicated to all who served to honour  
their country in times of war.*



Ipswich Railway Museum

Anzac memorials can be found in almost every town in Australia, built by the local community as a lasting memory of those who have served, and those who gave their lives.

Many memorials have stood for nearly one hundred years. Each tells a story and hold many clues about the past.



Boonah Memorial

Usually you can find a foundation stone that tells when the memorial was 'dedicated' by having a community ceremony to honour the new memorial.



Boonah Memorial

*Can you see when the Boonah memorial was unveiled?*



Boonah Memorial

Sometimes you can see the name of the stonemason who created the memorial.



## Soldiers feature on many memorials



There is a wonderful range of soldier memorials in the region. Each has its own personality. Some are hard to see because they are so high up. When you look at these soldier statues together, you can start to see the differences.

*What differences can you see?  
How are they are standing?  
What are they holding?  
How are they dressed?  
What do do they tell us about  
soldiers in World War 1?*

## Slouch Hats

You may have noticed their slouch hats, pinned up on one side.



Forest Hill Memorial

A rising sun badge keeps it secured.

Most of the memorial statues are of regular soldiers, not officers. They show ordinary people during wartime, and it helps everyone to connect to the memorial.



Gatton Memorial

*What's this soldier wearing in his hat?*

## A feather in his hat!



Gatton Memorial

The hat decoration is a stone version of emu feathers, worn by Australian Light Horsemen. In World War 1 they generally rode their horses to the battlefield, then fought on foot.

These horsemen used to chase emus to show off their skills. If one actually caught the emu, he wore its feathers. Very quickly emu feathers became a symbol of the light horsemen's skills, and all light horsemen began wearing them... even today, when they no longer ride horses.

## Puttees



Forest Hill Memorial

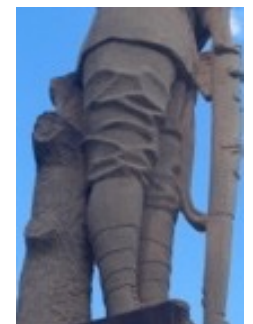


Puttees, AWM  
REL29295.005

Are those bandages on the soldier's legs? They are called *Puttees*, wrapped around their legs for protection and support. It turned out they weren't all that good for soldiers in the trenches - and they took ages to put on. Puttees are no longer used.

## Stumped?

*Did you notice that some of the soldier statues have tree stumps behind them? What might that be about?*



Gatton Memorial





Forest Hill Memorial

There's no special meaning to the tree stumps. The stumps are a decorative way to give extra strength to hold up the heavy stone statues.

*What else could be sculpted to support the statue instead of the stump?*

## Rifles



Coomera Memorial

Many memorials show soldiers resting on their rifles which are upside down. This is called *reversed arms*, and is a sign of respect for those who lost their lives. You might notice this stance by soldiers at Anzac services.

The rifles on the statues also show the types of weapons used at the time.



# Obelisks



Mudgeeraba Memorial

Obelisks are a common form of memorial - a shaft topped with a pyramid. The form dates back to the sun-worshiping ancient Egyptians. An obelisk represents a single ray of the Sun's light.



Canungra Memorial

Some obelisks are topped with globes - representing the sun and eternal light, the world, or perhaps humankind. The one below at Helidon shows a globe of the world.



Helidon Memorial

*Can you see Australia?*

# Gates



Harrisville Memorial Gates

Memorial gates stand at various sites. Sometimes they open to a memorial. In other places, they stand alone. Often names are listed on the pillars of the gates.



Southport Memorial Gates



Tamborine Mountain Memorial Gates



# Scenes



Both of these memorials are in Anzac Square, Brisbane

Some memorials, like those in Anzac Square Brisbane, depict a scene. They draw you in to the story of how things were at the time. This scene shows soldiers walking with a horse and cart.

This scene of a nurse holding a wounded soldier is particularly moving.



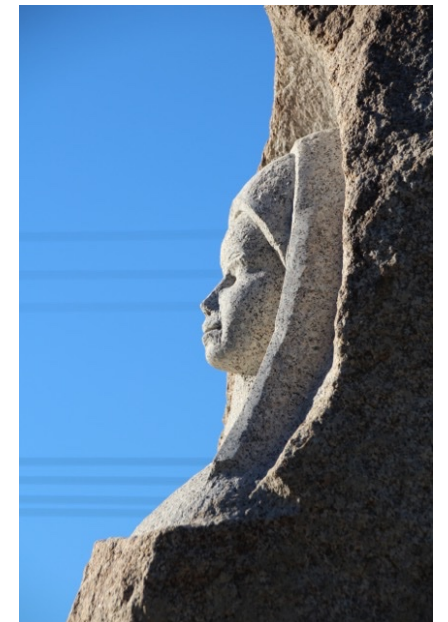
## Faces carved in stone



Kalbar Memorial

The Kalbar memorial is a more modern design. A face is carved on each side of a large egg-like rock.

*Can you make out the soldier, the airman, seaman, and nurse?*



The faces are very expressive, and convey deep feelings.

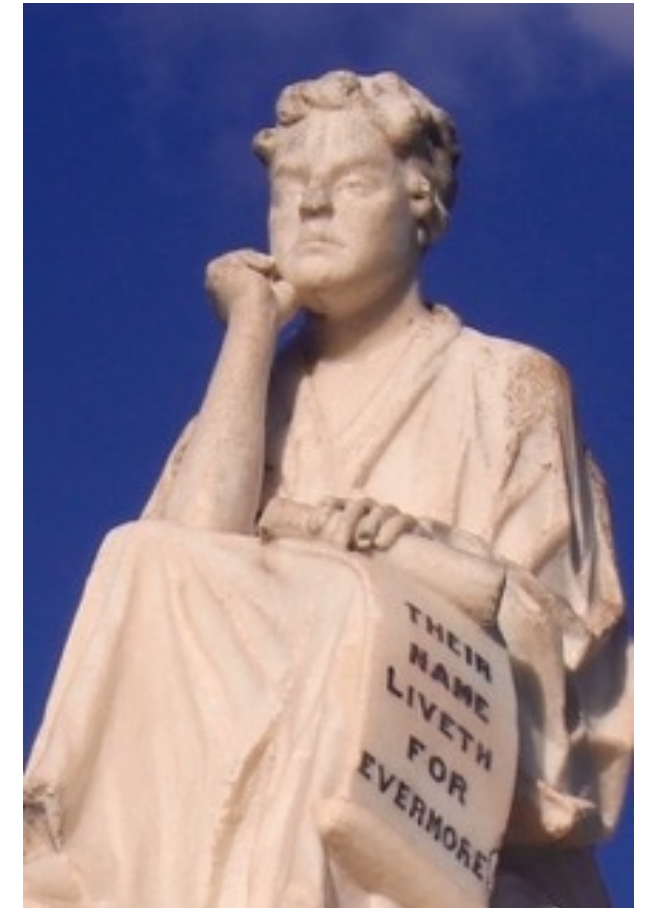


## Weeping mother



Weeping Mother Memorial, Gatton

This statue at Gatton is called the *Weeping Mother*. She sits silently, asking that the names of those lost in war be remembered forever.



*Do you think she looks like she is weeping?  
How would you describe the look on her face?  
What name would you give this statue?*

# Flames



Laidley Memorial Gates with flaming torches

Torches and eternal flames - all express eternal remembrance of those who gave their lives. Remembrance is the reason memorials are created: that people through the ages will know what happened and who fought for their country.

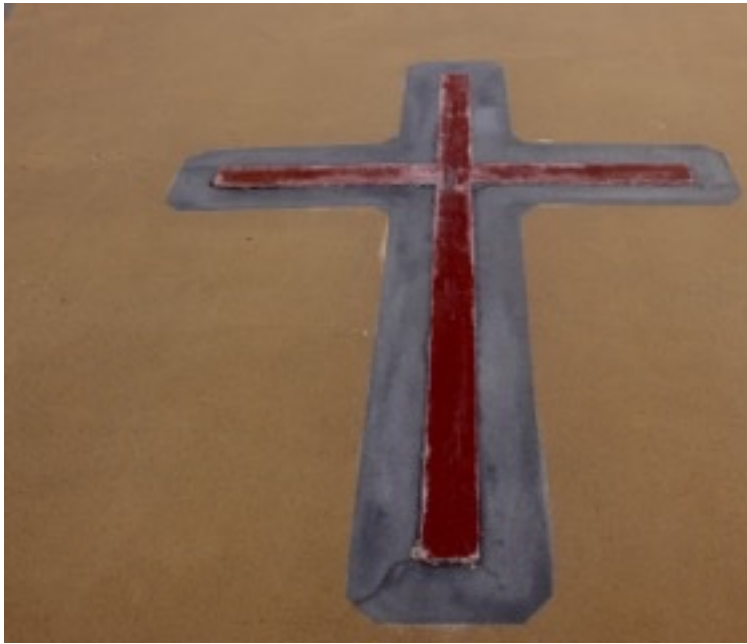


Laidley Memorial

Eternal remembrance is repeated in different ways on memorials.



## Crosses



Cross embedded in the concrete in front of Harrisville Memorial

Crosses, the symbol of Christianity displayed on the memorials, give religious significance, pointing to a higher purpose beyond our understanding. A cross reminds us of the sacrifices made through serving, and of all who gave their lives. There is also, the hope that wars like this would not happen again.



The cross on Laidley Memorial is formed by a sword



At Kalbar Memorial a cross is designed into the planting of the flower bed

## Rosemary



Rosemary in flower



Rosemary remembrance hedge at Helidon RSL

Hedges of rosemary also signify remembrance. Rosemary grew wild on Gallipoli, and the herb itself is meant to be good for memory - great for exam time! Usually you can spot rosemary growing somewhere on a memorial site. It is also worn on Anzac Day.

## Wreaths



Funeral urns around the Boonah Obelisk, and wreath around the years

Many memorials are decorated with wreaths and urns. These symbols date back to Greek and Roman times and represent death and mourning.

*Can you see the urns and wreath? There are Greek columns also.*



## Rising sun



University of Queensland, Gatton Campus Memorial  
Courage, Mateship, Sacrifice, Freedom

The rising sun emblem was designed in 1902. Originally it represented Australia as a new country, rising like the sun. With the dawn Gallipoli landing the rising sun took on a new meaning for Anzacs.



The turned up brim of a slouch hat  
with the rising sun

The rising sun badge is still worn on slouch hats, and is the symbol of the Australian Army. The design has evolved and become stylised over time.

*Can you make out the bayonets that form the sun's rays?*



## Special Insignia

There may also be special symbols relating to the site of the memorial. On this memorial at the Ipswich Railway Museum (the former Rail Yards), the badge of Queensland (Crown and cross), is displayed above the honour roll, and the Queensland Railways insignia showing the Queensland Coat of Arms is below.



Queensland  
Railways Insignia



Ipswich Railway Museum Memorial



# Indigenous Memorials



Memorial Rock to Yugambeh men and women who served. It is situated in Burleigh next to the Bora Ring. Plaque detail is on the right.



Many indigenous people fought as Anzacs. They fought as equals and were respected. It would be another 50 years after World War 1 before Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people were given the right to vote in Australia. The Gold Coast has the first national indigenous memorial. It honours the Yugambeh peoples of the area.

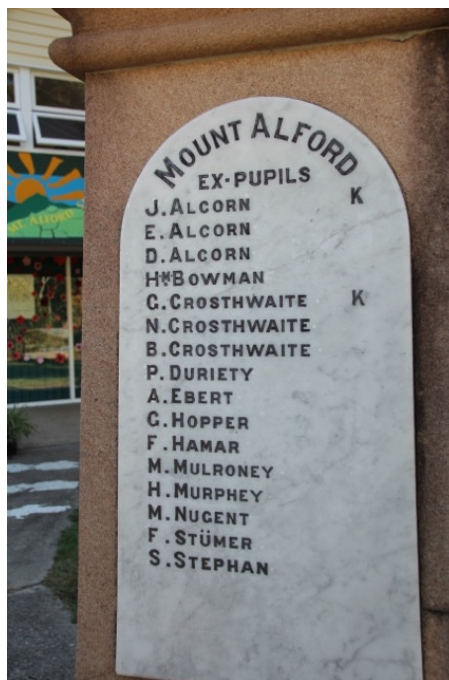


Plaque at the Mudgeeraba Memorial to two indigenous men who enlisted from there.



# Names

Seeing long lists of names in small towns can be overwhelming. It shows the enormity of World War 1. Usually those killed in action are marked in some way - with a 'K' or a cross. Sometimes military honours for bravery are also marked.



Names of ex pupils listed on the Mount Alford State School Memorial



Names on the Beaudesert Memorial. Those killed in action are in the centre shown as making the supreme sacrifice.



# Memorials at the Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum

There are two special memorials at the Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum. They honour the animals that served and those who cared for them.



'Dedicated to all the mounts (horses) of the Australian Light Horse who did not come home after the Boer War and World War 1'

Army Veterinary Corps memorial. A national monument to those that care for animals in service.





Coomera Memorial

This book covers the most common symbols on Australian war memorials. There are others too.

Next time you look at a memorial, look for the how these symbols are used. Think about their meaning. You might notice how different wars use the same symbols, but may represent them differently. There may be new symbols also, significant to that conflict.



Kalbar Memorial

And, when you see an honour roll, take your time. Read their names. Think about what they did and what it might have been like for them - and their families.

Remember them.



Southport Memorial on the Broadwater



The end

It's not the end. Life goes on in these special places