

The Original Mandurah War Memorial

Originally the Mandurah War Memorial was located on the Western bank of the estuary, opposite the town on Mary Street and Old Coast Road. In 1997 major roadwork upgrade requirements impacted on the site. The original structure was removed, remodelled, and installed at the City of Mandurah RSL sub-branch, on the corner of Anzac Place and Third Avenue Mandurah, with a view to creating a new War Memorial that would adequately cater for the growing population of Mandurah, many of which were returned service people retiring to Mandurah for a sea change lifestyle.

On the left-hand side of the monument is affixed a brass plate headed *"They paid the supreme sacrifice."* Seven names are shown. The front carries three plaques- the top larger one, reads *"In memory of those who gave their lives in defence of their country, Lest We Forget"*. Of the other two plaques one commemorates the Unknown Soldier and the other the Women's Services.



Mandurah War Memorial

“The vision for the project is a War Memorial honouring the enormous contribution of Australian servicemen and women and others who served, suffered or died in conflicts of war. The memorial will be a consecrated place of reflection and rest where people of all nationalities and beliefs can mourn the loss of loved ones during conflict or war, including men, women and children who were prisoners of war.”

It was decided that the new Mandurah War Memorial would be located on the northern point of the Western Foreshore in a prominent waterfront location that enjoys high visibility from both land and water.

A Mandurah War Memorial Committee was formed in 2004; a design was prepared, and a tender appointed to construct the Memorial. A deadline of mid-April 2005, in readiness for the Dedication and Consecration Ceremony to be held prior to ANZAC Day was given.

The Mandurah War Memorial was designed by Hames Sharley Architects and built by Pindan Constructions and the City of Mandurah.

Commencement was on Tuesday 14 September 2004.

The official launch of the Mandurah War Memorial took place prior to ANZAC Day on Monday 18 April 2005.

The City of Mandurah worked closely with the City of Mandurah RSL sub-branch to assist in ensuring the first ANZAC Day Services (i.e. dawn and mid-morning services) held at the Mandurah War Memorial were historic and memorable ceremonies.

The response from the community to the new Mandurah War Memorial was extremely positive and the numbers attending the services overwhelming.



Mandurah War Memorial cont'd

The poem 'At the Going Down of the Sun' formed the inspiration for Hames Sharley's design for the Mandurah War Memorial.

At the going down of the sun...

I crouched in a shallow trench on that hell of exposed beaches... steeply rising foothills bare of cover... a landscape pockmarked with war's inevitable litter... piles of stores... equipment... ammunition... and the weird contortions of death sculptured in Australian flesh... I saw the going down of the sun on that first ANZAC Day... the chaotic maelstrom of Australia's bleeding.

I fought in the frozen mud of the Somme... in a blazing destroyer exploding on the North Sea... I fought on the perimeter at Tobruk... crashed in the flaming wreckage of a fighter in New Guinea... lived with the damned in the place cursed with the name Changi.

I was your mate... the kid across the street... the med. student at graduation... the mechanic in the corner garage... the baker who brought you bread... the gardener who cut your lawn... the clerk who sent your phone bill.

I was an Army private... a Naval commander... an Air Force bombardier. no man knows me... no name marks my tomb, for I am every Australian serviceman... I am the Unknown Soldier.

I died for a cause I held just in the service of my land... that you and yours may say in freedom... I am proud to be an Australian.

By an unknown Author

The poem 'At the going down of the sun' is etched in its entirety on selected individual pillars throughout the site.

The War Memorial design uses large white pillars of various heights straddling a small rise with the axis of the row lying along the line of the Sun's rays as it rises on Anzac Day.

At dawn on Anzac Day the rising sun will light up the columns and create a temporary guiding light to the highest peak of the memorial, which will be further enhanced by the line of dark shadows cast along the axis.

The elevated design that rises from the water in the east recreates the physical journey and emotional tension of those service men and women – who with exceptional courage stormed the beaches, and rose from the trenches, to charge gallantly forward and face the conflict that confronted them at Anzac cove.

The Memorial peaks as they converge, and as the sun sets on the horizon and sinks into the ground, we will experience the sense of survival and loss.

Water flows through the monument and into the estuary; this echoes the lapping at Anzac beach.

The Memorial includes a remembrance stone carved from black granite. Listed on it are the conflicts involving Australian service men and women.

The Memorial is surrounded by a protective garden of New Zealand pine trees, rows of scented Rosemary, which is synonymous with remembrance and commemoration and olive trees, representing peace.

The Memorial is a communal space that can be used throughout the year as a place of gathering, education, and relaxation in addition to its primary role as a place of remembrance and reflection.



Mandurah War Memorial cont'd

