



Teachers Guide

**Australian Ex-Prisoners of  
War Memorial**

**Teacher Guide**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM  
(WREATH LAYING STONE)

**Australian Ex-Prisoners of  
Memorial**

Created By:

Jason Bahr – Gracie Hester – Emily McDonald – Jennifer Salt

4<sup>th</sup> Year Education Students Federation University 2014

## Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial



### Purpose

**Purpose of the Memorial:** To acknowledge the pain and suffering that all Prisoners of War endured during their time in captivity, to commemorate the thousands of mates left behind and to acknowledge the sacrifice of families during wartime.

### Background

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial was opened on the 6th February 2004 to recognise and remember those Australians who became prisoners of war during the wars of the 20th Century. It was initially thought to be built in Canberra, but it was deemed there was no room for such a memorial. The thought then came - why not here in Ballarat?

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial honours and pays tribute to more than 36,000 Australians who were Prisoners of War of the enemy during the Boer War, World War 1, World War 2 and the Korean War. There were no Australian Prisoners of War in the Vietnam War. The Memorial acknowledges the deprivation, the pain and suffering of those that returned and also those that remain on foreign shores and have no known grave.

The memorial was funded from donations by the Ballarat community, family members of POW's and corporate organisations during the memorial's appeal.

### Symbolism

The Memorial symbolises that all Australian Prisoners embarked to serve away from their homeland and acknowledges the hardship, deprivation, brutality, starvation and disease endured by Prisoners of War during their capture and the scars many continued to endure upon their repatriation to Australia.

A roll of names of all known Australian Prisoners of War is etched into a black granite wall lying parallel to the pathway. The roll gives no rank, number or enlistment detail. In recognition that sacrifice, suffering and desperation acknowledged no person's status. These men and women are equals.

It was designed by Peter Blizzard a well renowned sculptor in Australia and overseas. It was designed to incorporate a stone garden journey; in that journey is the long pathway which emphasizes the great distances people in Australia travelled to go to war.

The stones forming the pathway are shaped like railway sleepers to recognise the iconic link to railways in traveling to war and as prisoners. The roll of names are etched on black granite walls that run parallel to the pathway, and are designed on a 30 degree angle to make it easy for people to see the names without the need to bend over. This is important because of the large number of elderly people who visit the memorial.

In the center of the memorial stand massive stone obelisks, they form a silent line of guardians watching over these Prisoners of War for ever obelisk that is lying down represents all those who died as Prisoners of War. The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as Prisoners of War. The obelisks have all the names of the countries that had Australian Prisoners of War and they stand in a shallow pool of water that represents the countries where Prisoner of War camps were, being out of reach across the world's oceans and seas.

## Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial



### General Information

#### **What is a Prisoner of War?**

The Trustees of the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial have defined a Prisoner of War to be a person who was captured by a common enemy and/or interned in a neutral or non-combatant country. To be defined an Australian Prisoner of War, the person needs to be either an Australian Born person serving in a Uniform of a friendly country or Born Elsewhere and serving in the Uniform of an Australian Service. A Prisoner is a person who has lost personal privileges, suffers deprivation of liberty or is unable to return home or dies in captivity.

Every name on the memorial has been researched by the hard work of the trustees and many other volunteers.

**Number of Ex-POWs represented:** 36,000 plus.

**Materials Used:** Natural Stone-Basalt and Black Granite.

**Plants:** Xanthorrhoea Australis (Austral Grass Tree) and various other native plants.

**Cost:** \$1.8 Million (Donations).

**Length:** 130 metre long granite wall.

### Teacher information:

**Memorial location:** Ballarat Botanical Gardens – Corner of Carlton Street and Wendouree Parade.

**Access to the Memorial:** Access to the memorial is via Wendouree Parade. There is complete wheelchair access to the entire memorial.

**Toilet Location:** Approximately 100m North along Wendouree Parade.

**Parking:** Limited Car parking along Carlton Street and Windmill Drive.

- Parking along Carlton Street suitable for cars and mini buses.
- Parking along Windmill Drive is suitable for large buses.

**Food:** There is no shops in the direct vicinity, the nearest shops for food are about 500m south along Gillies street. Here you will find a service station and various specialty shops and a café.

**Emergency Form up Point:** Located on the grass in the vacant area behind the memorial near Gillies Street.

See Map for locations.

**Weather:** Weather can be quite cold with winds coming of the lake, there is no shelter from the elements. Appropriate clothing and personnel protection from the elements should be worn.

### **Contacts:**

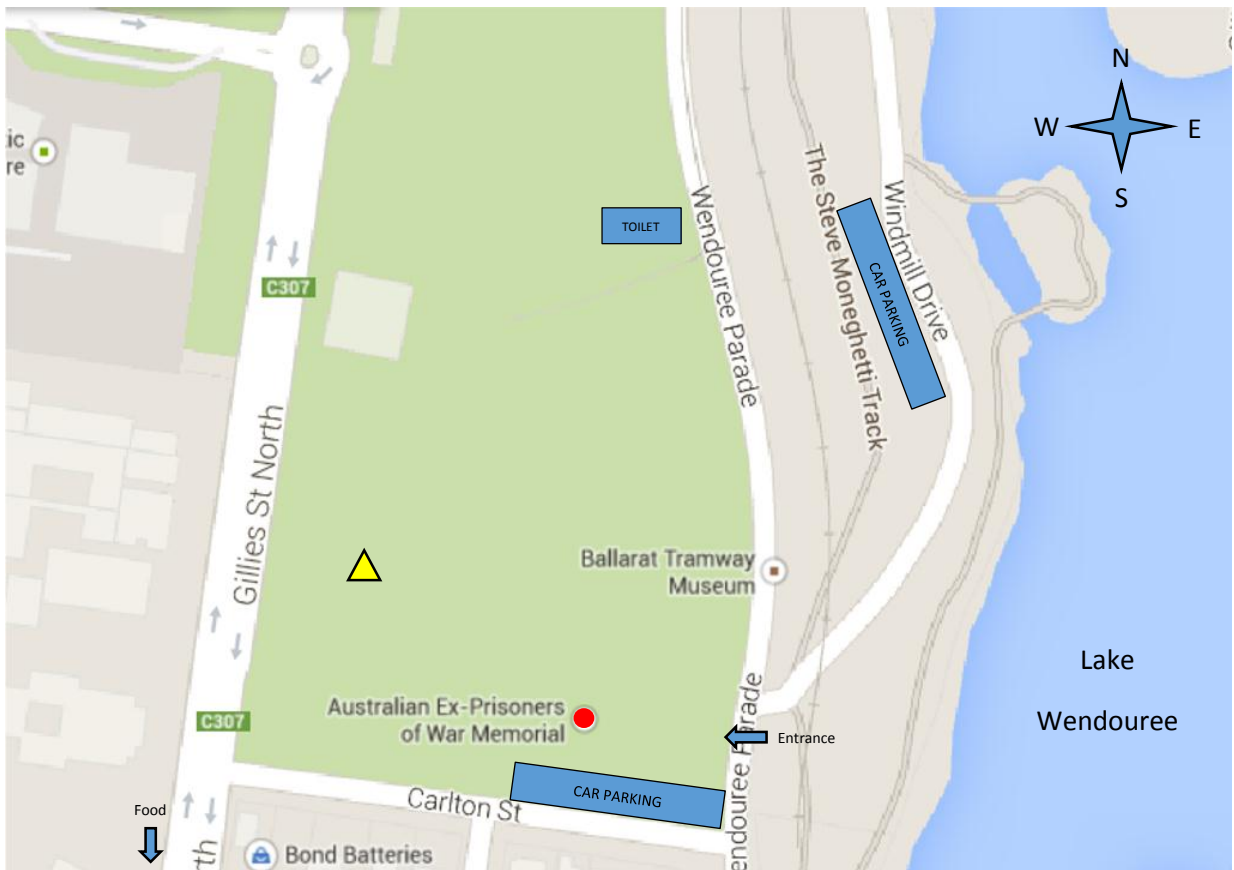
<b>General Inquiries or for Guided Tours:</b>	<b>Emergencies:</b>
Bill Bahr (Memorial Trustee) 0419-500983	Fire: (0-0-0)
Ray Mende (Memorial Trustee) 0429-324429	Police: (0-0-0) or (03) 5336 6000
David Stewart (Memorial Trustee) 0417-313608	David Lewis (Parks & Gardens) 0417-382182



Teachers Guide

## Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial

**MAP:** Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial.



**Key:**

- The Memorial - ●
- Car Parking - ▭
- Points of Interest - ↓
- Toilet - ▭
- Emergency Form up Point - ▲

