

THE AUSTRALIAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL

BALLARAT, VICTORIA

17TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021

VIRTUAL SERVICE: 11AM START

*Corner of Carlton Street and Wendouree Parade
The first Military Memorial of National Significance
outside of Canberra*



AUSTRALIAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL

Significant Listings & Acknowledgements

- 2004 The Memorial Opening: listing the names of over 36000 Australian Ex-Prisoners of War... the first Memorial to list all Australian Prisoners of War
- 2008 By an Act of Parliament "The First Military Memorial of National Significance"
- 2010 Listed on the Victorian Heritage Register
- 2010 Listed by the City of Ballarat on the Ballarat Treasures Register
- 2012 Listed on the Australian Web Archive "Pandora" Project
- 2015 Listed on the Victorian War Heritage Trail "100 places for 100 years"
- 2016 Listed on the RSL Virtual War Memorial website
- 2017 Co-Hosted the 75th Anniversary Service of the Fall of Singapore as part of the 100-Years of ANZAC with the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- 2018 Co-Hosted the 75th Anniversary Service of the Completion of the Thai-Burma Railway with the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- 2018 Listed on "Places of Pride: the National Register of War Memorials", Australian War Memorial
- 2019 Participated in the Roamni Project, a self-guided tour project of the Memorial with Ballarat Tourism
- 2020 The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial is an Authorised Volunteer Organisation through Centrelink

Memorial Trustees

William (Bill) F. Bahr, David Stewart, Ray Mende, Rev John Furness, Jason D. Bahr, Padre Margaret Benoit

ORDER OF SERVICE

Master of Ceremonies: Bruce Roberts

Trustees: Due to Government regulations and the uncertainty surrounding COVID19, Social Distancing, Masks, Contact Tracing and the limits placed on numbers for public gatherings, this year our Service will be conducted 'virtually'. We are aware a number of our remaining POW's are a little disappointed in not getting together; I know they will understand the need to be vigilant to ensure COVID19 is contained.

Our Master of Ceremonies Bruce Roberts and the President of Ballarat Legacy Jeremy Bannister (photographer) have worked their magic in bringing this 'Virtual' Service to completion. This video is a tribute to those 36,000 men and women whose names appear on the Memorial Wall, and to all those that have served this great country. We trust you enjoy the programme.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Thomas Photography © 2017

Message of Welcome:

Councillor Daniel Moloney
Mayor City of Ballarat

Response: The Hon. Darren Chester MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence

Guest Speaker: Megan Spencer

Australian Broadcaster and Media Arts Professional

Poem Reading: "The Writing's on the Wall"

Heidi Erwin Legacy Junior Public Speaker

The Writing's on the Wall

(by John McCosker OAM © 2020)

*Where is this wall we talk about, the one with all the names
By a lake, in a park not that far from Ballarat town
Flags are flying, troops are standing
with their heads bowed down*

*Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, their names upon this Wall
Forced to work endlessly in a place of living hell
Many did not make it, they died just where they fell*

*Those names are on the Wall for all of us to see
Memories of loved ones captured, so we can now be free
They were ordinary people, some heard the final bell
Never to return from that distant living hell*

*The torture and hardship endured surviving death and pain
No man or woman should ever have to face internment ever like
this again
No living human should endure those places of living hell
Hoping they would never hear the tolling of that bell*

*Every year I visit to remind me of those taken
Their names are on the wall
Those eight thousand six hundred men and women who answered
to their countries call
The ultimate sacrifice paid by many but remembered by us all
So please take note and remember
"The Writing is on The Wall"*

with permission John McCosker OAM



Prayer: Reverend John Furness

Trustee and ex-Army Chaplain

*Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled in the hearts
of your followers the flame of holy courage and devotion to
duty, we bless this day for the remembrance of Australia's
sons and daughters who counted not their life, their own,
as they went out to serve in battle.*

*Especially do we give thanks for those who gave their lives
on our behalf and for the cause of liberty and justice.*

*May their example ever move us to self-sacrifice and
courage, and may we ever strive in humble dependence on
you to be worthy of their sacrifice.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Abide With Me

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

Ode to Remembrance:

Dr. Tom Roberts OAM

(Author & Researcher)

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We WILL remember them.*

Response: *We WILL remember them*

Last Post: Bugler from Australian Navy Band Melbourne

One minute silence

Response: *Lest We Forget*

Reveille

The Blessing: Reverend John Furness

*Go forth into the world in peace
Be of good cheer, render to no one evil for evil.
Support the weak, care for families and children.
Fear God, Honour all people;
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and
all people now and always.*

Amen.

National Anthem: Advance Australia Fair

*Australians all let us rejoice
For we are one and free
We've golden soil and wealth for toil
Our home is girt by sea
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia Fair
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.*

Reflection on 2020

The year 2020 will be remembered as a year of masks, social distancing and reduced gatherings of family and friends.

Sadly, in 2020, Australia lost a number of Ex-Prisoners of War – all in their late 90's and early 100's.

The numbers of POW's continue to dwindle and in time our Prisoners of War numbers will be zero.

The Trustees thank those that came before us; who had the foresight to build such a marvellous monument.

The Trustees in time look forward to the day when an Interpretive Story centre is built to remember and research these 36,000 plus Australian Ex-Prisoners of War.

Lest We Forget



Our grateful thanks

The Trustees offer their grateful thanks to the following people and organisations that have come together to bring this Virtual Service to a conclusion:

Bruce Roberts
Jeremy Bannister, Photographer
The Hon. Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence
Cr. Daniel Moloney, Mayor, City of Ballarat
Megan Spencer
MRL Media
Rory Noke, PodBooth
Peter Lambert Design
The Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne
Heidi Irwin
Dr. Tom Roberts OAM



Thanks to all those many people behind the scenes who have contributed in bringing this Anniversary Service to a satisfactory conclusion.

THE STONE GARDEN JOURNEY



This memorial to Australian Prisoners of War takes the observer on a journey; more than 36,000 Australian men and women were held captive as prisoners by the enemy during the Boer War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. This memorial honours them. There were no Australian POWs during the Vietnam War.

The journey begins on a long pathway designed to create a strong visual perspective that emphasises the great distance Australians travelled to war.

The paving stones forming the pathway are shaped like railway sleepers in recognition of the iconic place of railway journeys in the history of Australian Prisoners of War.

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





In a break in the wall a row of stone obelisks stands sentinel in a shallow pool of water. Each bears the names of countries where Australians were held Prisoners of War. The obelisks are out of reach across the water, symbolising that all the prison camps were overseas, far from home and from the comfort of family and friends. The size of each obelisk and their position in the water creates a powerful image and offers a place for reverence and reflection.

The obelisks form a silent line of guardians watching over these Prisoners of War for ever. The fallen stone honours all those men and women who died as a Prisoner of War.

The roll of names on the granite wall continues towards a large stone at the end of the pathway. The stone rests on a

small granite wall and bears the timeless inscription 'Lest We Forget'. This is the end of the journey – an intimate space for contemplation.

Water springs from beneath the 'Lest We Forget' stone, then flows down the wall into the narrow watercourse in front of the first group of names and into the reflective pool, then continues past the second group of names. Finally it disappears under the pathway, returning to its source under the 'Lest We Forget' stone to start the journey again.

Water symbolises the essential nature of man; sacrifice, suffering, spirituality, healing, cleansing, birth and re-birth. In this memorial it forms a continuous cycle, binding all Australian Prisoners of War together for all time.

The memorial is created from natural materials and is designed to be in harmony with the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, and to create a sense of timeless, dignity and respect.

Concept and design: **Peter Blizzard** OAM (Deceased)

Please note that some of the features in the 'Stone Garden Journey' are unavailable at present.

www.powmemorialballarat.com.au



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