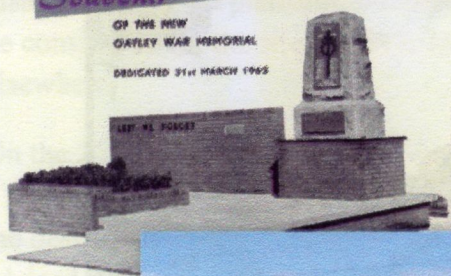




**OATLEY SUB - BRANCH**  
RETURNED SAILORS, SOLDIERS & ARMED SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

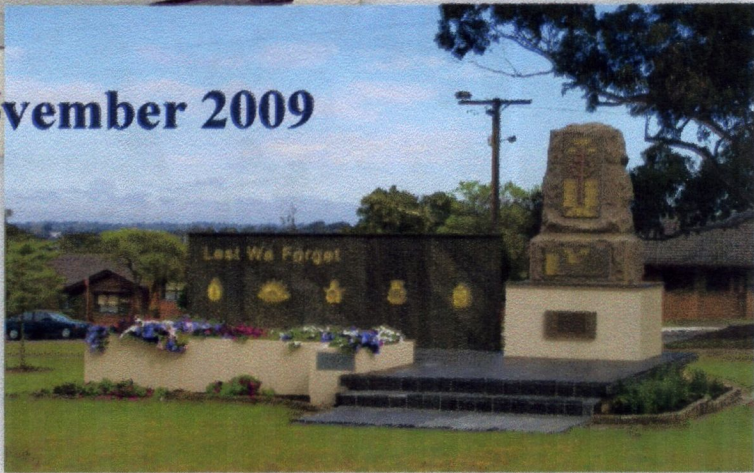
*Souvenir*

OF THE NEW  
OATLEY WAR MEMORIAL  
DEDICATED 31st MARCH 1965



# REDEDICATION OF OATLEY WAR MEMORIAL

**1st November 2009**





## OATLEY WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION SERVICE

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009

### History.

The memorial was first proposed in 1923 by the Oatley Soldiers Committee. The committee submitted their proposed design to the Public Monuments Advisory Board by letter on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1923. Kogarah Municipal Council was investigating a site to be provided by the Railway Commissioners, between Railway Pde (Oatley Pde) & Railway Ave (Oatley Ave) near Frederick St. This area now all parklands was once the site of the original railway & Oatley Station. For many years it was an untidy area. The original road bed could be seen from Mortdale Railway Sheds to the cutting where the Scout's Hall is now situated. Also visible was the old platform. It is assumed that this untidy area could not be considered for the site of a War Memorial & the Committee looked elsewhere.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1923 the Education Department gave approval for a piece on school land. The Public Monuments Advisory Board approved the design on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1924, the department of local Government advised Mr. Pratt the honorary Secretary that the design was suitable subject to certain modifications.

The Oatley War Memorial was erected on the corner of the local school ground at the corner of Letitia & Neville Streets in 1924. The Dedication or Unveiling of the War Memorial took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 1924. Major General C. F. Cox was to have unveiled the War Memorial but owing to ill health Brigadier General Lloyd performed the ceremony.





The need for a complete Memorial to commemorate 1914-18, 1939-45, Korea, Malaya & Borneo was put on the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. Sub-Branch agenda. This came to fruition when in 1962 a new War Memorial was built in the Oatley Gardens. The Original monument was removed from the corner of the school & a suitable plaque was affixed to the original site.

The new War Memorial was rededicated on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1962 by the President, Mr. C. Bemrose who gave the opening address, and the Rededication by the Rev H.C. Lundy. The guest of honour was Mrs. Cole with Mrs. Popstring with Local Dignitaries and Council members of Kogarah and Hurstville.

Following the relocation and Dedication Service in 1962, ANZAC Day services conducted by the Sub-Branch continued.

Over the ensuing years, the War Memorial began suffering deterioration from the elements, notwithstanding the ongoing maintenance. The names shown on the Memorial were taken as complete and correct.

In early 2000, a query was received by the Sub-Branch as to why the name of local resident of Oatley who died on active service in World War 11 was not on the War memorial.

A Preliminary investigation of this query was undertaken by the then Sub-Branch President, Garry George & the Sub-Branch Secretary, Ian Thompson and found the query to be well founded.

Consequently, full investigative research was commenced as to any other 'missing' names, embracing WW1, WW11, Korea, Malaya-Borneo and Vietnam. This detailed research took over eight years.

The Sub-Branch's initial proposal to Kogarah Council in 2001 for the basic refurbishment of the Oatley war Memorial was subsequently expanded to include the substantial number of missing names identified from WW1 & WW11.

The donation of an aircraft propeller by The Canterbury/Bankstown, Navy & Air Force Association and the acquisition of a ship's anchor, together with the refurbishing of the existing field piece, provided the concept for the creation of a highly visible, tri-service memorial.

The significantly expanded refurbishment was ultimately embraced wholeheartedly by Kogarah Council who has now completed the project after some five years of planning the design. The splendid detail finishing was undertaken and completed over the last two years. The refurbishment was designed and completed by Kogarah Council in close liaison with the Sub-Branch committee of Gary George and Ian Thompson. It has been funded by Kogarah Council with some assistance of a small grant from the department of Veterans Affairs.

This refurbished memorial is a most fitting tribute to the citizens of Oatley who gave the supreme sacrifice.



Lest we Forget

**Rededication of Oatley Soldiers Memorial**  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 at 2.00p.m.

**Officers**

<b>Michael Tiddy</b>	<b>Alf McGrath PSM</b>	<b>Ian Thompson</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>

**Master of Ceremonies:** Michael Tiddy  
**Guest Speaker:** John Haines AM  
**Padre:** Rev. Bruce Ballantine-Jones OAM  
**Flag Officer:** Chris Brown  
**Catafalque Party:** E Coy 2/17 RNSWR  
**Soloist:** Karen Horder  
**Bugler:** James Crowe

Welcoming Address – Mr Garry George

Hymn – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, the night And our eternal home.	A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone; Short as the watch that ends Before the rising sun. Time, like an ever rolling Bears all its sons away; They fly, forgotten, as a Dies at the opening day.
Under the shadow of Thy throne stream, Thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone, dream. And our defence is sure.	

**Unveiling of the Memorial**

**Mr John Haines AM State Vice President Returned & Services  
League of Australia**

**Councillor Nickolas Varvaris Mayor of Kogarah**

**Dedication – Michael Tiddy**

Reverend, On behalf of Oatley RSL Sub-Branch and those here present  
we ask you to bid God’s blessing on this memorial.

**Prayer – Rev Bruce Ballantine-Jones OAM**

Eternal God may this Memorial, which we dedicate in your name.  
Always remind us of the sacrifice made for Australia by its sons and  
daughters that we, inspired by their example, may so live in hope of a  
joyful resurrection and reunion. This we pray through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Hymn- "Lead Kindly Light"

Lead, kindly light, amid th'encircling gloom, lead Thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead Thou me on!  
Keep Thou my feet: I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor pray that Thou shouldest lead me on;  
I loved to chose and see my path: but now lead Thou me on!  
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,  
Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still will lead me on.  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till the night is gone,  
And with the morn those angel faces smile, which I have loved long,  
Since, and lost awhile!

#### Guest Speaker:

**Mr. John Haines, State Vice President, Returned & Services league of Australia.**

#### Placing of Tributes

#### **Ode To The Fallen-**

**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 by all: "We Will Remember Them"

Bugle will sound "Last Post" followed by two minutes silence.

Bugle will sound "Rouse"

### 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.

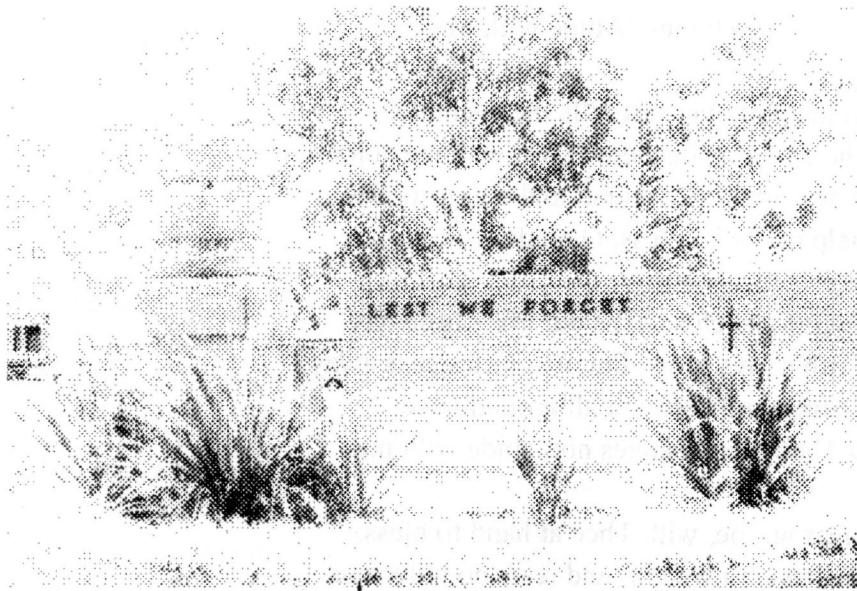
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changes not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

#### National Anthem- "Advance Australia Fair"

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young 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!"





"Lest we Forget"  
Oatley Honour Roll  
1914-1918

Agate	G E A	Coleborne	W E	Murray	RG
Beale	C E H	Cross	W	Peake	W E
Beaton	D J	Davenport	H	Peake	W L
Bennett	P	Davidson	W	Pearson	A D
Bennett	S	Dunn	G A	Perry	H
Bird	J	Evans	J D	Pickering	S J
Bourchier	C L	Fletcher	F	Skevington	F
Brown	G W	Fletcher	G A	Stead	H F M
Brown	H H	Forrest	P N	Stephens	P A F
Burke	E	Gill	G A	Thompson	F D MM
Caesar	A	Kendall	W J	Watson	W MC
Campbell	C	Lemon	W	Whatling	A
Chandler	A C	Lloyd-Jones	H	William	W P
Clarke	H L	McMillan	A	Wilson	R



"Lest we Forget"  
Oatley Honour Roll

1939-1945	Korea	Malaya-Borneo	Vietnam
Atkins	LJ		Archer GA
Barry	AWF		Hollis AE
Briggs	WS		
Buttel	AF		
Cowling	AJ		
Doyle	KN		
Farrant	EW		
Hart	GF		
Hawkins	ATR	BEM	
Hubbard	G		
Joyce	L		
Mason	EP		
McDowell	FRJ		
Names being researched			
Fryirs	JH		
Milne	W		



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101

102  
103  
104