Personal experience,

Public memory:

Rockdale’s monuments to military service

Panayiotis Diamadis
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Introduction

Men and women of the area now comprising the City of Rockdale have served in various armed forces since the colonial conflicts of the late-1800s. Those left behind as well as those who returned from war sought to honour and commemorate that service, a tradition that is alive and well in the 21st century. It is through the personal experiences of the men and women who have served as soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen, as well as medical and logistical support staff that Rockdale has developed its public memory, its collective interpretation of these experiences.

This interpretation has been expressed in various forms over the last twelve decades: secular and religious services, naming of streets and other thoroughfares, dedication of parks, halls and other public spaces, development of memorial boards and, most prominently, physical structures including statues and sculptures. These are far from static, being moved, adapted, renovated, even removed, as the community's needs have changed over time.

Personal experiences, Public memory is an exploration of the City of Rockdale's commemoration of military service over the 144 years of local government in the area. This study covers people, events and structures associated with the City of Rockdale within its 2015 boundaries, a reflection of the dynamic change the district has undergone since 1871, metamorphoses reflected in the expressions of personal experiences through the public memory of the increasingly diverse Rockdale community.

Lest We Forget

As has been argued by Amelia R. Brown, the Hellenes were the first to create sites of commemoration for fallen soldiers. Following the Hellenic victory over the Persian Empire at the Battle of Marathon (490BCE), cities across the Hellenic world erected monuments to mark this and other battles with sculpture, paintings and poetry.
War memorials thus became a major part of public art, decorating urban spaces, and serving as a powerful reminder of past sacrifices ... these monuments became symbols of heroism, memory and Hellenic identity.¹

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra includes in its collections – though not on display - a plaster cast of a mid-5th century BCE Hellenic inscription from the Hellespont. It is part of a longer inscription commemorating the sacrifice of Hellene warriors who died fighting there, 23 centuries before the ANZACs arrived:

Doing battle beside the Hellespont these men lost their shining youth. They brought honour to their homeland, so that the enemy groaned as it carried off the harvest of war, and for themselves they set up a deathless memorial of their courage.²

It is clear how apt the inscription is for an institution established to honour the sacrifice of young men in war. Writing in Sacred Places, K. S. Inglis notes that not until the mid-1800s, and only in countries transitioning from autocracy to democracy such as Italy, the United States, France and England, ‘did the service and death of ordinary soldiers begin to be regularly commemorated, on monuments which mourn them as well as celebrating their cause’.³ The first official Australian war memorial was erected in 1850 at Hobart, Tasmania, to the 24 men of the British 99th Regiment of Foot who fell in the 1845-46 Maori Wars. A single column of stone, in the ancient Hellenic tradition, it is the only such memorial to be erected by a British Regiment serving in Australia.⁴

¹ Lecturer in Greek History and Language in the Classics and Ancient History discipline of the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at the University of Queensland. The Friends of Antiquity ‘Public lecture: War Memorials as Public Art in Ancient Greece’

Panayiotis Diamadis Entry for 2015 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize
In the same vein, the City of Rockdale hosts a variety of memorials to Australian and Allied wartime service. The elegant stone structure outside the Bexley RSL Club on Stony Creek Road, Bexley, bears the evocative phrase ‘Their Name Liveth Forever More’. War memorials in Rockdale City continue to serve a very similar purpose to their ancient predecessors: they are focal points for communal remembrance of past sacrifices, symbols of public memory and also creators of Australian national identity.

Thoroughfares
Arguably the most invisible war memorials are the names of streets and other thoroughfares named for battlefields or servicemen and women. They are also the oldest form of commemoration in the City of Rockdale, predating the oldest traditional war memorial in the district. These toponyms may be divided into three categories - persons, places and events – reflecting the historical experiences of Rockdale's inhabitants over the late 1800s and early 1900s. These toponyms also reflect the dominant British influence in the City during its first century. For example, formerly named Derby and then Bismarck Street (Kogarah) was named for the Lord who served as the British Minister for War from 1914 to 1917. With Germany being the enemy in the Great War, Germanic toponyms were Anglicised across the country. Therefore, Bismarck Street became Kitchener Street, as the former Chancellor of the Kingdom of Prussia was now deemed unworthy of the honour of having a street in Rockdale named for him.

The most poignant ones are named for the fallen. The first Rockdale boy to die at Anzac Cove was Corporal Robert Willison. Formerly Webbers Road, Willison Road (Bexley and Carlton), now honours his memory. Waines Crescent, (Rockdale), is named after F. C. Waine, former Deputy Town Clerk of Rockdale, killed at Anzac Cove on 1 May 1915. It is interesting that Rathbone recorded Waines as falling ‘at the landing at Gallipoli’, today generally referred to as Anzac

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5 Rathbone (1990), page 24
6 Rathbone (1990), page 45
Cove.\textsuperscript{8} One of Rockdale City’s two main thoroughfares – General Holmes Drive (Kyeemagh and Brighton-Le-Sands) – is a memorial to Major-General William Holmes CMG, former Secretary of the MWS and D Board, Commander, Australian Forces New Guinea, killed in France 1917.\textsuperscript{9} According to local historian and former Rockdale Mayor, Ron Rathbone, Gordon Street (Brighton-Le-Sands), is almost certainly named after General Charles Gordon, killed at Khartoum by the forces of the Mahdi in the early phases of the Soudan Campaign (26 January 1885).\textsuperscript{10}

Others such as Aero Street and Hinkler Street (both in Brighton-Le-Sands), named for World War One pilot and QANTAS co-founder, Bert Hinkler,\textsuperscript{11} Garnet Street (Rockdale) and Wolseley Street (Bexley) bear the name of the victor of the Soudan Campaign, Sir Garnet Wolseley,\textsuperscript{12} one of the earliest overseas conflicts involving colonial forces from Australia.

Haig Street (Bexley) and Hamilton Street (Arncliffe and Bardwell Valley) are both named in honour of World War One British commanders under whom Australian forces served. Formerly Victoria Street, it was renamed after Field Marshall, Earl Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of British and Imperial forces on the Western Front. General Sir Ian Hamilton was the British Commander at Gallipoli.

A most interesting group of street names are the ones honouring allies and opponents in past conflicts. Sans Souci (a French term meaning ‘without care’, in Australian terms, ‘no worries’) has a cluster of streets named for figures from the Napoleonic Wars era. Prussian Field Marshall Gebhard Leberecht von Blucher, an ally of the Duke of Wellington at the 1815 Battle of Waterloo, was honoured with Blucher Street.\textsuperscript{13} It appears hostility to defeated enemies has been patchy in the Australian conscience. While Germanic toponyms were changed early in World War One, Soult Street retained its name. It honours the memory of Marshall Nicholas Jean de Dieu Soult, Duke of Dalmatia and one of Napoleon’s generals, himself commemorated with Napoleon Street.

\textsuperscript{8} Rathbone (1990), page 42
\textsuperscript{9} Rathbone (1989), page 17
\textsuperscript{10} Rathbone (1989), page 18
\textsuperscript{11} Rathbone (1990), pages 2 and 21
\textsuperscript{12} Rathbone (1990), pages 17 and 45
\textsuperscript{13} Rathbone (1990), page 7
The places commemorated in the City of Rockdale are a fascinating mixture which reflect some association with this part of southern Sydney: battlefields and regions in Europe and Africa. Trafalgar Street (Brighton-Le-Sands) ‘could only have been named after Horatio Nelson’s great victory over the French Fleet in 1805’, wrote Rathbone in *The Origins of the Street Names of the Municipality of Rockdale.*\(^{14}\) Aboukir Street (Rockdale) is named for the Battle of Aboukir, a village in Egypt captured by Wolseley during the Soudan Campaign.\(^{15}\) Similarly, Cairo Street (Rockdale) is for Wolseley’s capture of the city on the River Nile, which ended that campaign.\(^{16}\) The Campaign itself is remembered with Soudan Street (Bexley North).\(^{17}\)

Alsace and Lorraine Avenues (both in Bardwell Valley) are named for the twin French provinces on the German frontier. Over the course of a century, they changed hands four times in all: to Prussia/Germany, 1871; to France, 1918; to Nazi Germany, 1940; and to France, 1945.\(^{18}\) One of the bloodiest battlefields of that conflict – Verdun – was commemorated with the street of that name. Originally named Ocean Street, this small thoroughfare in Bexley was renamed in 1917 to honour the sacrifice of those who fell there, and to avoid confusion with the Kogarah thoroughfare of the same name.\(^{19}\)

**Ceremonies**

Prior to 1916, there was no national day of commemoration of military service to Australia (either to the colonies or to the new Commonwealth). Despite seven decades of armed service in conflict zones in New Zealand (1845-66), Sudan (1885), South Africa (1899-1902), and China (1900), there was no shared day of remembrance and reflection. Only through special liturgies or religious services or the unveiling of memorials could those left behind gather to share their experiences.

It was on the first anniversary of the landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula that this changed. The annual Anzac Day Services have since become a key event

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\(^{14}\) Rathbone (1990), page 41  
\(^{15}\) Rathbone (1990), page 2  
\(^{16}\) Rathbone (1990), page 9  
\(^{17}\) Rathbone (1990), page 38  
\(^{18}\) Rathbone (1990), pages 3 and 26  
\(^{19}\) Rathbone (1990), page 42
in the public life of the City of Rockdale, marked with various degrees of intensity over the last century. Held at various times on 24 and 25 April, the city’s war memorials and RSL clubs are the focal points of these public expressions of national spirit and commemoration.20 The established RSL clubs at Arncliffe, Bexley, Brighton-Le-Sands, Ramsgate and Rockdale all organise Dawn Services, typically followed by breakfast, while Ramsgate also holds a short march from the corner of Ramsgate Road and Campbell Street to the club, followed by a ceremony, breakfast and the traditional game of ‘two-up’.

The first Anzac Day service was held at Rockdale Town Hall on Tuesday 25 April 1916. At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr W. W. Monahan, a meeting was held on Monday 17 April to form a committee and support network for collectors for ‘the ANZAC Day memorial’. In the same announcement, Mayor also called upon ‘all citizens’ to assemble at the civic centre at 1pm ‘when a short memorial service will be held in honour of our fallen and wounded heroes’.21 The following year, the Methodist Conference held a special ‘Memorial Service, in memory of the Methodist soldiers who had fallen in the war’, in the Lyceum Hall, on the evening of Wednesday 28 February. The ‘Honour Roll’ was read by Rev. W. Pearson, ex-President of the Conference. Amongst the names he read were nine men of Rockdale: Llietenant Dannefoerd, Frederick C. Waine, E. Goode, Small, Banecroft, R. S. Meek, Lieutenant H. Kingsley Meek, Leigh Howard and Claude Hallett.22

The post-war years brought a relaxation in the traditionally strict sectarianism of colonial Australian society. A ‘United Church Service’ of Anglican, Presbyterian and Salvation Army faithful was held at Rockdale Town Hall on Sunday 24 April 1921. Organised by the Rockdale-Bexley branch of the Returned Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Imperial League, the Honour Board in the hall ‘was hung with wreaths’, while the Rockdale Municipal Band performed and Anglican

21 ‘ANZAC Day’ St George Call (Kogarah NSW) Saturday 15 April 1916, page 4.
Reverend George Mashman and Methodist Reverend John A. Waddell were the keynote speakers.23

The service, as reported by local newspaper, the *St George Call*, reveals a number of aspects of Rockdale society at the time. Various Protestant denominations were represented, illustrating their numerical domination of the local population, a reflection of the national demographic picture. Rev. Waddell was quoted as saying: 'There had been nothing finer than the response of our young manhood and womanhood at the call of the Motherland'.24 Worth noting are his references to the service of both men and women, as well as the reference to Australian service to broader British nation, including the Antipodes. The St George Call’s reference to ‘ANZAC Day’ is also interesting, as are its quote from Reverend Mashman’s address:

> Just as the Israelites had suffered and died that they might attain the promised land, so on the 25th April, 1915, Australia’s manhood had received its baptism of fire, that we might live in freedom.25

This phrase encapsulates one of the most enduring myths around the Anzac Legend. Since 1916, Anzac Day has been an interesting anomaly. Very few nation-states commemorate defeats in the same way Australians do every 25 April. Reverend Mashman’s words illustrate one prominent proposition about why this is the case: Gallipoli was the country’s first major battle as a single entity and therefore, the national ‘baptism of fire’ as a nation. University of New South Wales in Canberra Professor and co-founder of Honest History Peter Stanley speculates that Anzac commemoration is about ‘the deaths of those who served and the fact of sacrifice ... That’s probably better than celebrating a great victory because it focuses on the human’.26 In its own ways, the community of the City of Rockdale continues to contribute to this evolution of the history of the commemoration of Anzac, a century since the first memorial services.

23 ‘ANZAC Day Memorial Services. Rockdale Town Hall.’ *St George Call* (Kogarah, NSW) Friday 29 April 1921, page 5.
24 ibid
25 ibid
While in recent years the central Anzac Day March from Martin Place to Hyde Park has undertaken some steps to broaden the appeal of the event by including marchers from allied countries such as Hellas, Korea, Serbia and South Vietnam, those in the City of Rockdale remain affairs that predominantly concern locals from British and Irish backgrounds. Considering the large Hellenic, Nepalese and Chinese communities within the City, the organisers of Anzac commemorations should examine how to make these more reflective of the cultural diversity of the backgrounds of Australians who have served, as well as acknowledging their allies in war.

Public Spaces
The development and use of public spaces in Rockdale reflect the changes in approach to memorialisation of military service over time. With a population of four million, the Australian colonies sent up to 16,000 troops to the British war effort against the independent Orange Free State and South African Republic (Transvaal) between 1899 and 1902. ‘Grief, pride and general awareness of the war concentrated in those suburbs and rural areas most strongly represented in South Africa’, wrote K. S. Inglis, ‘because they happened to be catchment areas for units of the citizen military forces; in the rest of the country a sense of personal connection was rare!’ It is out of this sentiment that Rockdale’s first formal memorials to wartime service were created.

On Saturday, 31 August 1907, the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency Sir Harry Rawson, laid the foundation stone of the memorial hall adjoining St John’s Anglican Church, Rockdale. The hall was ‘erected in memory of the soldiers who died in the South African and China wars’. During his address to the gathering, Rawson offered some insights into his personal experiences of such ceremonies. For him, such events were about ‘assisting to keep the memory of those men who lost their lives whilst assisting the mother country’. Expensive and elaborate sculptures and monuments ‘represented so much money wasted’, funds ‘more wisely spent in doing some public good’ through charity, education or ‘in providing buildings that would be of public

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use’. More than a century on, these words remain quite valid. The Memorial Hall Rawson inaugurated was used for a Sunday school and other church-related purposes.

In the spirit of these comments, a number of war memorial around Rockdale City combine traditional monuments with public spaces. In the immediate aftermath of the war, the Returned Soldiers’, Sailors’ and Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia (R.S.S & A.I.L of A.) was formed based as much on patriotism as on the desire of returned servicemen to continue the friendships they had made whilst serving together. Other primary objectives included providing assistance to those less fortunate than themselves who had returned incapacitated in some way. These clubs became – and remain – key players in the development of the Anzac Legend and Legacy across the City of Rockdale a century after their establishment.

Originally formed as the Rockdale-Arncliffe and Bexley Sub-Branch of the RSL (NSW), it is one of the oldest in NSW, arguably in Australia. At a ‘large and enthusiastic meeting’ at the International Order of Odd-Fellows Hall on Done Street, Arncliffe, on Thursday 18 September, 1919, ‘it was unanimously decided that the memorial to the war workers, soldiers and sailors, take the form of a club room and memorial hall’. A committee was formed to secure land and donations of venues such as the Elite Picture Theatre ‘for the purpose of raising funds’. Almost immediately, fundraising began, including a ‘euchre party and dance’ in December 1919. Applying for its charter in 1919, this was granted in 1920 with the first meeting of the Rockdale Sub-Branch being held in January 1921. Rockdale Town Hall was the club’s first assembly point every Tuesday night, followed by a small room at Brighton Beach.

Rockdale Municipal Council granted the local RSL Sub-Branch a block of land on Bay Street in 1922. The first sod of construction of the Memorial Hall was turned by Major General Sir Charles Rosenthal in 1927, with the formal opening

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29 ibid
30 ‘Returned Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Association, Arncliffe’ St George Call (Kogarah, NSW) 27 September 1919, page 8.
31 ‘Returned Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Imperial League. Rockdale-Arncliffe and Bexley Sub-Branch’ St George Call (Kogarah, NSW) 20 December 1919, page 6.
the following year. Major-General Rosenthal joined Rockdale Mayor Alderman E. J. Gardiner in laying foundation stones as part of the formal opening of the ‘Soldiers’ Memorial Hall’ on Saturday 24 November 1928. Indeed, the Mayor was quoted as declaring that Rockdale:

had now lifted the stigma that has so long rested on the district in respect to a soldiers’ memorial. ... a good many never returned and their memory had to be preserved.

The familiar public history themes of debt to the fallen and preservation of memory arise out of the personal experiences of the servicemen and servicewomen of the suburbs which now comprise the City of Rockdale. For almost three decades, the Memorial Hall served the members of both World Wars, until it was severely damaged by fire in 1954. Under the leadership of President Tom Wright, the task of reconstruction began two years later. A Building Committee was formed, and in 1957 part of the upper floor and the rear section of the Club was completed. In August 1959, with President Bruce Campbell at the helm, work commenced on the completion of the building, the goal being achieved the following year. Two more major fires in 1978 and 1982 brought the Rockdale RSL Club – affectionately known as ‘Club Rockys’ – to its present form.

Having established a club at Rockdale, attention turned to establishing the Arncliffe Soldiers’ Memorial Hall built upon land granted by Rockdale Council on Wollongong Road, Arncliffe, shortly before the outbreak of World War Two. Indeed, a corner of Arncliffe Park had been carved out to enable the hall to be built. After over seven decades of independent operation, the Arncliffe RSL merged with the Bexley RSL, a reflection of the changing demographics of the area and the consequent decline in active membership. In July 2015, it was

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32 ‘Crowds gathered for the setting of the foundation stone of the Soldiers’ Memorial Hall, Bay Street, Rockdale, 24 November 1928’ http://203.20.148.68/ LocaHis/ Jpeg/004/ rsl_r_009.jpg [Accessed 11 July 2015]
34 ‘Memorial Hall in Park’ Sydney Morning Herald Wednesday 27 July 1938, page 16
35 The Arncliffe Soldiers Memorial Hall, Wollongong Road, Arncliffe http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/ Jpeg/004/ rsl_a_001.jpg

12 Panayiotis Diamadis Entry for 2015 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize
announced that the club would close its doors on 31 August, unable to deal with the financial pressures any longer. According to Bexley RSL General Manager Anton Dworzak: ‘We imagine the premises at Arncliffe will fill a void and serve the community, albeit in a different role.’

The Bexley RSL Sub-Branch was formed on 27 August 1928, with the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Philip Game opening the Bexley Soldiers’ Memorial Hall on Saturday 21 June 1930. Welcomed by Mr. W. J. Butler, MLA, a ‘huge crowd thronged the road opposite the memorial hall’ as the Mayor of Bexley, Alderman C. Biddulph the Governor at a at the corner of Forest and Harrow Roads. Inside the new memorial hall, the members of the Bexley sub-branch of the RSL were drawn up as a guard of honour, and Inspected by the Governor. The media reported that a ‘novel scheme for raising funds to pay off the debt incurred in the’ was carried out. The grounds in which the hall stood was ‘split up into 1400 blocks’ and sold at public auction. ‘The certificates of title were then given to the memorial hall committee’. That was the plan, however, ‘Mr. Alick McNeil liquidated the £400 debt on the property’ before the auction commenced. ‘The money received at the auction was added to the funds of the branch’.

Following the familiar pattern of forming an RSL Sub-Branch then a licensed club, in November 1956 a Club was formed from the Ramsgate RSL Sub Branch, securing a liquor license the following year. This, together with the legalisation of gaming machines, enabled the club to finance construction of modern club premises by 1963. Major General Ivan Dougherty, Director of Civil Defence in NSW and one of Australia’s most distinguished military commanders, officially opened these in April 1965.

The local council did establish a war memorial of its own before being absorbed by Rockdale Municipal Council in 1948. Situated on the corner of Stony

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36 Kahlia Beichert ‘Saved once, but now Arncliffe RSL Club is going’ St George and Sutherland Shire Leader Thursday 16 July 2015, page 8.
37 ‘60th Anniversary Bexley R.S.L. Sub Branch’ http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/social/display/101998-60th-anniversary-bexley-r.s.l-sub-branch
38 Views of Bexley, 1935; ‘The Bexley R.S.S & A.I.L.A Memorial Hall, Stoney Creek Road, Bexley’ http://203.20.148.68/LocalHis/jpeg/004/rsl_b_001.jpg
39 ‘The Governor; opens Memorial Hall. Reception at Bexley’ Sydney Morning Herald Monday 23 June 1930, page 8
Creek Road and St Georges Road, Bexley, at the north-eastern corner of near the entrance to the Bexley Golf Course. Reflecting the British heritage, the centrepiece is in the shape of a cairn, with a bronze plaque in the centre. The dedicatory inscription reads:

R.S.S.I.L.A.
Bexley Sub-Branch
This garden was
dedicated by
Bexley Municipal Council
in memory of
deceased comrades
who fought in The
Great War 1914 – 18
'We Will Remember Them'
J.T.F. Barwell. J.P.
Nov 11th. 1937 Mayor

From at least the 8th century BCE, the Kallipoli Peninsula was inhabited by Hellenes. Translated as ‘Beautiful City’, Kallipoli was anglicised to Gallipoli centuries later. When the Allied fleet assembled at the Hellenic islands of Lemnos, Imvros and Tenedos in preparation for the assault on the Dardanelles, ‘the Greek population of ... the Gallipoli peninsula’ had ‘been deported ... in a deplorable condition’.41 ANZAC Prisoners-Of-War – including Stoker Harry/Henry James Elly Kinder, H.M. Australian Submarine AE2, Royal Australian Navy, originally of Kogarah, and Second Lieutenant Laurence Henry Smith, Australian Flying Corps, originally of Hurstville – witnessed the Hellenic, Armenian and Assyrian Genocides. Upon return to Australia, a number of these became involved with the world’s first international humanitarian relief effort, mostly as donors but also in other capacities. With Armenian Relief Committees operating in Kogarah, Hurstville and neighbouring parts of Sydney, the people of the City Rockdale made contributions of their own to this cause as well, triggered

by the systematic destruction of the indigenous Hellenic, Armenian and Assyrian peoples of the Ottoman Empire between 1914 and 1924, Australians were leaders of the worldwide campaign to rescue the survivors scattered around Hellas, Cyprus, Syria and Soviet Armenia.

Amongst these leaders was Eleanor Vokes MacKinnon, founder of the Australian Red Cross (amongst other organisations).\(^{42}\) From 1924 onwards, the Junior Red Cross opened homes ‘for sick and delicate children of Returned Soldiers, especially from country NSW’. Between 1924 and 1936, 3,441 boys and girls ‘have had their health built up at these institutions’.\(^{43}\) Two of these homes, ‘run on family lines – as a real ‘home’ were Cudgelo and the Eleanor MacKinnon Memorial Home, neighbouring properties located at Ramsgate.\(^{44}\) Cudgelo had been officially opened by Mrs H. E. Patton with Rockdale Mayor Alderman G. E. Barton.\(^{45}\) These humanitarian efforts were inspired by a desire to soothe suffering, usually caused by conflict. In driving fundraising efforts or operating seaside refuges for the children of ex-servicemen and women, these institutions and individuals were – in their own ways – seeking to commemorate the military service of loved ones and others they had never met. Another interesting intersection of personal experience and public memory in Rockdale’s history.

**Living memorials**

Long before the rise of the ‘Green’ environmental movement in Australia in the 1970s, inspired in part by the union Green Bans that saved Kelly’s Bush (Hunters’ Hill), The Rocks and other heritage sites around Sydney, flora were used as living war memorials around the City of Rockdale. On the initiative of director of the Botanic Gardens and government botanist, Joseph Henry Maiden, ‘Victory Trees’ were offered to all NSW schools ‘to be planted and carefully guarded’ within the grounds of schools or neighbouring churches, ‘to remind’

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\(^{44}\) ‘Junior Red Cross supports four homes. Holidays for Children of Ex-servicemen’ *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners’ Advocate* (NSW) Wednesday 17 July 1946, page 3.

staff and students ‘of all the blessings and opportunities that victory has given us’. Then-Arncliffe resident Mrs Colin Shipway recorded that the late Reverend H. Wheen had the original idea for the mass tree plantings as war memorials, the idea being to ‘plant’ in the minds of schoolchildren ‘a sense of gratitude to God for the victory vouchsafed to Britain and her allies’. The Sunday School of the Arncliffe Methodist Church was the recipient of one such ‘victory tree’, planted by Mrs Pearson on 20 October 1920. It became the custom to hold service around the tree on Armistice Sunday (today known as Remembrance Day’ every year afterwards. This appears to have been maintained until the building was sold to the Coptic Church in 1979, the closing services being held on Sunday 25 March.

In 1968, the NSW Minister for Education, C. Cutler M.L.A. inaugurated the Brighton-Le-Sands Memorial Fields on Sybil Lane, Brighton-le-Sands. Spread out behind a white gate and brick fence are several playing fields for football and rugby league, though other sports including archery are also practised there. Beside the gate, the wall is adorned by a plaque bearing a fading inscription: ‘Dedicated to the men of the Australian Armed Forces who gave their lives that the youth might live and play upon those fields.’

Mayor Alderman Dowsett of the now defunct Bexley Municipal Council presented a motion to a council meeting on Tuesday 6 December 1921 ‘that the three cornered block of land at the corner of Forest Road and Albion Street be resumed as a memorial reserve for soldiers who served during the Great War’. During the ensuing debate, Mayor Dowsett decried that ‘Bexley has no memorial to those who fought overseas’ informing opponents that ‘It is not for the soldiers’ – it’s the public’s duty’. It appears that the proposal was not brought to fruition, with the land in question now part of the campus of the Sydney Technical College on Forest Road, Bexley.

Memorials are not always created and inaugurated around significant anniversaries, though they are all dedicated to particular conflicts and

46 ‘The Victory Tree’ The Methodist (Sydney) Saturday 1 May 1920, page 4.
47 Mrs Colin Shipway in Bronwyn Perkins (editor) (1979) Early Churches of the St George District, St George Historical Society Book No. 8, page.
48 ‘War Memorial – Bexley to Resume land’ St George Call (Kogarah, NSW: 1914-23), Friday 9 December 1921, page 5.
anniversaries. A special new World War Two memorial was inaugurated on the corner of Ramsgate Road and Chuter Avenue, Ramsgate, in 1997, two years after the anniversary itself. The monument consists of a tree accompanied by a plaque which bears the inscription:

Australia Remembers 1945 - 1995
This memorial of Hills Weeping fig (Ficus mricrocarpa var. Him) was planted to recognise the contribution of the men and women of the City of Rockdale during World War II.
Dedicated 15 June 1997
Councillor Peter Bryant Mayor
Lest We Forget

At one of Rockdale’s busiest intersections – The Seven Ways, where Bay Street, Princes’ Highway and other thoroughfares meet – a memorial garden was developed to celebrate the centenary of Rockdale’s incorporation as a local government entity (1871-1971). The dedication ceremony on 6 February 1971 was officiated by Mayor Alderman R. W. Rathbone and NSW Premier and Treasurer, Sir Robert Askin. The original memorial consisted of a paved garden with a single flag pole at its centre, semi-enclosed by a low wall and four standing brick walls with three modern metal sculptures between them. On one of the walls were the words ‘In Remembrance’, along with a dedicatory plaque.

MEMORIAL GARDEN
This Garden was dedicated to the glory of God and in the memory of the men and women of the municipality of Rockdale who sacrificed their lives for their country in the first and second World Wars and subsequent campaigns.

49 ‘World War Two Memorial’
http://monumentaustralia.org.au/australian_monument/display/101462
Renovated for this year’s Centenary of Anzac, the memorial garden was refined. The brick walls were replaced by stone slabs, while the central flagpole was removed. On three of the walls were attached the insignia of the three branches of the Australian Defense Forces in bronze (from north to south, Air Force, Army and Navy). The fourth retains the original words ‘In Remembrance’ along with the original dedicatory plaque. Between them was added a second dedicatory plaque:

100
Years of ANZAC
The Spirit Lives
2014 - 2018
Together
We Remember
Councillor Shane O’Brien
Mayor of the City of Rockdale
On behalf of the Citizens of Rockdale City
Sunday 19 April 2015
ROCKDALE
CITY COUNCIL

In the flowerbed across from the main part of the memorial, a plaque sits atop a low sandstone plinth. The bronze plate is inscribed with the first eight lines of a poem by Alistair Te Ariki Campbell.50 Born in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in 1925, to a Cook Islander mother and a third-generation New Zealander of Scottish descent. Jock Campbell sought refuge from the trauma of his injuries and experiences on Gallipoli and in France by making a new life as a South Pacific island trader.51 Considering the growing Pacific Islander community of the City of Rockdale, selecting a poem by a New Zealander poet was a most appropriate


reminder of the ‘NZ’ in ANZAC. Surrounded by red artificial poppies and real shrubs he plaque reads:

The Gallipoli Rose

"It was magical when the flowers appeared on the upper reaches - not that we saw much of the upper reaches. But when we did, we were reminded of home when spring clothed the hills with flowers. The dead lying among them seemed to be asleep."

Extract from Gallipoli Peninsula by Alastair Te Ariki Campbell

Although not officially part of the memorial garden, the signals box on the footpath next the retaining wall of the flowerbed has been painted with a poppy field motif and the slogan ‘Commemorating 100 Years of ANZAC 1915-2015. Together We Remember’. It is an interesting example of street art being utilised to convey officially sanctioned messages, in essence to develop a sense of shared ownership of Anzac in a remarkably demographically diverse area.

**Ecclesiastical memorials**

Structures of wood, glass, metal, brick and stone serve simultaneously as expressions, and creators, of public memory. Typically erected with public monies – either taxpayer or through individual donations – they are present in public spaces, typically within or in the vicinity of, religious structures or parks. War memorials may take a wide variety of form: statues or sculptures, artworks, memorial boards with lists of names, and religious items dedicated to loved ones lost in war.

One of the earliest such dedications was made by the Dunstan family of Bexley, parishioners of St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Rockdale, in 1923. They donated a baptismal font to the newly-erected church in the name of Private Benedict Dunstan of Bexley. Himself a parishioner until he enlisted,
Private Dunstan was killed at the Battle of Fromelles on 20 July 1916. Buried in an unmarked mass grave, his remains were not recovered until 2009, when former history teacher and military historian Lambis Englezos demonstrated the site near Pheasant Wood to be a previously unknown Anzac burial ground. Following DNA identification, Private Dunstan was laid to rest with full military honours in the Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery on the outskirts of Fromelles in 2010. The baptismal font served the parish until 1967 when lack of maintenance meant it was replaced. The original font was left in storage for decades until it was restored with funding from an Anzac Centenary Local Grant and parishioner donations. In the presence of many of his family, the baptismal font dedicated to the memory of Private Benedict Dunstan was re-dedicated on Sunday 20 July 2014, 98 years to the day after he fell in battle, continuing to serve the parish that once counted him as a member. The anecdote of the Benedict Dunstan Memorial baptismal font demonstrates the enduring and flexible nature of personal experience shaping, and being shaped by, public history in the history of the City of Rockdale. Memorials change to suit the local communities that create and maintain or remove them if they are seen to no longer serve a purpose. What remains unchanged is the desire to remember past events and faces who are no longer visible, decades after they have passed.

The West Botany Methodist Church, now the Bay Street Uniting Church, received a ‘marble font’, donated by the parents of ‘Fred, Beat. and Glad. Waine’ in honour of their collective memory. Rockdale-born Frederick Charles Waine fell at ANZAC Cove on 1 May 1915. The Bexley Uniting Church on Gladstone Road, Bexley, was officially opened as the Bexley Methodist Church on Saturday 20 March 1926. Amongst the memorials installed in the building was ‘a polished maple pulpit’, recorded as ‘the gift of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. and Miss Gladys Johnston’, dedicated to the ‘memory of the soldiers who fell In the Great War’. Since the earliest records of human society, contributions of religious items have been one way of posthumously honouring deceased loved ones. The experiences

52 ‘Service for war hero’ St George and Sutherland Shire Leader 17 July 2014, page 16.
55 ‘Building – Methodist Church, Bexley’ Sydney Morning Herald Wednesday 24 March 1926, page 11
of ‘the Great War’, and the impacts of those experiences, make the donations of ecclesiastical items to religious communities unique forms of war memorials, monuments to specific individuals as well as to entire groups.

**Physical Monuments**

Wooden boards with gold lettering are a traditional form of war memorial in Australian society, combining the individual and the collective elements of commemoration of service and sacrifice in war. As congregations move and change, often these boards are some of the few parts of the original churches to survive the test of time.

The Rockdale Municipal Council meeting of Thursday 1 July 1915 opened with the tabling of a minute from Mayor W. W. Monahan:

> As mayor of the Municipality of Rockdale, I deem it my duty to officially bring before this Council the fact that their deputy Town Clerk, Mr. Frederick C. Waine, has fallen in battle while fighting for his country, at the Dardanelles. I desire to recommend [that] the Council ... place on permanent record its appreciation of his faithful service, and its deep sorrow [at] his untimely death. I further desire to recommend the Council to sanction the affixing to the walls of the Council Chambers of a tablet to his memory.

At its Thursday 18 January 1917 meeting, Council would unveil a marble tablet, inscribed ‘as a tribute to the memory of Frederick Charles Waine’. As the war dragged on and the enlistments and casualties mounted, so the simple dedication to F. C. Waine grew to the sizeable two-part Honour Roll at present in the foyer of Rockdale Town Hall. Its dedicatory inscription, with the usual patriotic language, reads:

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1914 FOR KING AND COUNTRY 1918
ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL HONOR ROLL

(Names)
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Dedicated by the Citizens of Rockdale Municipality in Honour of their Soldiers
who fought in the Great War
W.W. Monahan Mayor 9/10/16

On Monday 9 October 1916, the first board (left-hand side of the Foyer) was officially unveiled. The second (right hand side) was not completed and mounted until mid-1921. A full account of its creation was written by David Martin in 2013 and is well worth reading.56

The most intriguing example of concern to Rockdale is the case of the St George County Council Memorial Board. Proclaimed on 29 October 1920, the County Council was comprised of three representatives from each of the local Councils of Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Bexley bearing responsibility for the supply of electricity and the supply and installation of electrical fittings and appliances.57 The mystery lies with the creation of the Memorial Board. Recording the names of servicemen from World War Two and the Viet Nam War, the mystery lies in who commissioned its creation and when its was created. The best guess is the late-1970s, given the inclusion Viet Nam and the fact that St George County Council was absorbed by Sydney County Council in 1980. Further archival research may uncover these details.

Amongst the more elaborate examples are the Rockdale RSL Sub-Branch Member Honour Roll, adorning the Rockdale R.S.L Club at 315 Bay St, Rockdale. The dark timber board with gold lettering titled ‘Rockdale Sub-Branch Member Honour Roll. R.S.S & A.I.L of A. LEST WE FORGET’, lists the member’s name as well as his unit. Beside the Honour board is a copper wall plaque with the insignias of the services in relief.58

The Rockdale Methodist and the West Botany St Methodist also maintained such honour rolls, lists of parishioners who enlisted in World War One. They are currently housed within the Rockdale Uniting Church at 11 Bay Street, Rockdale,

57 Roll of Honour, St George County Council, Location and Date Unknown
58 ‘R.S.S & A.I.L of A.’: Returned Soldiers Sailors and A. Imperial League of Australia

22 Panayiotis Diamadis Entry for 2015 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize
the oldest church building in the St George District, dating from 1856. The West Botany dedication reads simply: ‘Honour Roll. 1914-1918’, whereas the Rockdale Methodist dedication states: ‘Fear God. Honour the King. The following voluntarily enlisted for Active Service in The Great World War 1914-1918’.

The Arncliffe Methodist Church Honour Rolls have a very chequered story of their own, which illustrate Rockdale’s varied approach to military service and its commemoration. The original boards were first unveiled during a parade at the Arncliffe Methodist Church in 1916. They remained in the church on Wollongong Road, across from Arncliffe Park until 1979 when they were then put in storage. Decades later, Keith Boog, a former member of the Australian Defence Forces who had served in Vietnam, came across a pile of timber sitting in a dumpster. He had gone to a garage to collect a donation for the Arncliffe Men’s Shed. As he told the *St George Leader* newspaper, ‘I went over and saw that there was a name on it. I knew it was World War I stuff.’

Having informed those responsible for the attempted disposal that I said ‘it’s really disrespectful’ to throw away such historical items, an upset Mr Boog ‘collected all the pieces and brought them back to the men’s shed.’

Recognising the significance of the pieces, he donated the boards - in more than 100 pieces - to Rockdale Library. They engaged a conservation specialist - International Conservation Services - who worked for ten months to restore the boards to their former glory. Thus the boards with the names of 64 soldiers and one nurse were re-assembled.59

When seeing the restored boards in their new home Rockdale Town Hall at for the first time in March 2015, Mr Boog said he got emotional. "I loved it. I sat there looking at them for more than half an hour," he said. They bear the inscription:

For King & Country
Roll of Honor
1915 1916 1917
For King & Country
Roll of Honour

Presented by C. P. Whereat
1914 - 1918

Greater Love Hath No Man Than This:
That A Man Lay Down His Life For His Friends

The restored Arncliffe Methodist Church Honour Boards, now in the Pindari Room of the Rockdale Town Hall, next to the Council Chambers, a place that now has a major collection of historic material, especially related to commemoration of military service.

These honour rolls provide substantial information on the history and evolution of the City of Rockdale. They provide names of Anzacs who were once parishioners of churches within the local community, illustrating the overwhelmingly British origins of most of Rockdale's early settlers. Drawing on the original locations of these memorial boards, it is possible to identify the particular denomination of those Anzacs. These gold-inscribed carved wooden tablets honour the service of all those men who enlisted, the ones who fell as much as the ones who returned, demonstrating the significance the act of volunteering for active duty had for the particular section of the broader Rockdale community. Finally, the relocations of some of these memorial boards from their original sites once the original church ceased operating, illustrates the significance these historical records may hold for the community.

This last point is not always the case. Like many of its counterparts, the original Bexley RSL Club had carved and polished wooden Rolls of Honour, inscribed with gold lettering. The surviving one declares: ‘MUNICIPALITY OF BEXLEY HONOR ROLL 26th November 1922 by F.P. Dowsett. Mayor’. Locked away for some time, in the basement before being restored to a public position, only one of the original pair of boards survive; the other is believed ‘lost’.

Adorning the forecourt of the Bexley RSL Club on Stony Creek Road, Bexley, the war memorial consists of a sandstone obelisk with bronze memorial plaques accompanied by an artillery gun. The inscriptions on the three plaques read:

Their name liveth forever more
Dedicated to the memory of the Australian servicemen and women who gave their lives in the defence of their country in the 1914 – 1919 Great War, World War II 1939 – 1945, Korea, Malaysia, Borneo 1948 – 1966 and Vietnam 1962 – 1973

Lest We Forget
Erected by the Bexley R.S.L. Sub-Branch and Bexley R.S.L. Club Limited
50th Anniversary Victory in the Pacific War

This monument exemplifies one way in which memorials to military service may remain relevant to local communities across time. Originally erected to commemorate the dead of the Great War, as servicemen associated with the Bexley area became involved in later conflicts, those names were added to the monument, adding to the public memory of this service.

Not all war memorials are as revered in 2015 as they were upon their creation and dedication. For various social and financial reasons, some reverently installed monuments are allowed to decay beyond repair and eventually removed. The classic examples in the Rockdale case are the sad stories of the Tempe Tram Depot War memorial and the ‘Dolls Point Digger’.

All that remains of the once elaborate white Italian marble monument is the solitary statue of a World War One Digger, now standing outside the Kyeemagh RSL Club on Tancred Avenue.\(^6\) Originally mounted on a trachyte column, the statue, it was dedicated by Brigadier-General Lee on Sunday 8 September 1918 and recorded the names of 89 Tempe Tramways Depot men who enlisted, the eight Killed-In-Action, Died-Of-Wounds or Died-Of-Disease. As the media report proclaimed, the structure cost 200 pounds, yet was inaugurated ‘free of debt’.\(^6\)

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\(^6\) http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/jpeg/004/monuments_w_001.jpg
It appears the memorial was later expanded, with the statue being placed atop a circular temple-like structure and re-dedicated on 24 August 1919\(^62\) to the 1157 New South Wales Tramways who enlisted, 139 of them never returning home (killed or missing-in-action).

VALE!
In Memory of
our fellow comrades who
laid down their lives for
LIBERTY
in the Great War of 1914-1919
'Greater love hath no man than this:
That a man lay down his life for his friends'
LEST WE FORGET
Erected by the staff of Tempe Tramway Depot.

The Tram Depot closed in 1954, while the marble figure (all that remained of the 1919 monument) was given to the RSL and subsequently placed next to the Kyeemagh RSL Club premises. The figure was then painted to cover damage inflicted by vandals. In 2002, a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs funded a restoration project, in essence returning the sculpture to its original image: a 'Digger' with inverted rifle standing on a sandstone plinth. The memorial, sans paint, is currently located near the main (eastern) entrance to the club.\(^63\)

Two historical items related to commemoration of military service in the Wolli Creek-Tempe-Kyeemagh triangle remain out of public view. When the memorial underwent restoration, a substantially smaller sandstone block replaced the original inscribed stone base of the Tempe Tram Depot Memorial. At a later point, the original Kyeemagh War memorial on General Holmes Drive

\(^62\) 'Kyeemagh War Memorial (Previously at Wolli Creek Tram Depot)' Register of War Memorials in NSW https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/kyeemagh-war-memorial-previously-wolli-creek-tram-depot

\(^63\) 'Tempe Tram Depot War Memorial' Register of War Memorials in NSW https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/tempe-tram-depot-war-memorial
was removed by Rockdale Council. The smaller, less elaborate sandstone block that was the centrepiece of a garden on the major thoroughfare has fallen into disuse with the transfer of the Tempe Tram Depot monument to the Kyeemaggh RSL. The sincere hope is that both these historic items will be restored and returned to public view but protected from the elements, perhaps within the premises of the Kyeemagh RSL Club.

The ‘Dolls Point Digger’ had a much sadder end. In 1917, Sandringham stonemason Richard Taylor combined chicken wire and cement to create a monument, local historian Garry Darby believes, was inspired by the wartime service of his two sons, one of them at Anzac Cove. Both returned home, though both carried injuries. Originally commissioned by a community group at Miranda, the sculptor appealed to Sans Souci residents to cover the costs when the Miranda group was unable to pay the agreed amount.

When this appeal also failed, Taylor’s ‘Digger’ was placed in a small local park, and in 1920, on private land at the intersection of Clareville and Russell Avenues, across from the trolley (later bus) stop. For some years, the private memorial served its purpose: a focal point of community commemoration with schoolchildren being brought to lay flowers and wreaths at the statue. By the 1940s, exposure to the elements and lack of maintenance were taking their toll and the statue fell victim to vandalism. A 1956 Australasian Post article made a telling comment about community attitudes to war and war memorials in the aftermath of World War Two and the Korean War, a time when the prospect of the Cold War going nuclear was very real:

All over Australia you will find sadly neglected war memorials, but few, if any, as badly treated as this one at Dolls Point, on Botany Bay.

The few remaining fragments (the base and parts of the legs), which had toppled into the surrounding overgrowth, more removed and disposed of in the late-1950s.64

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64 Murray Trembath ‘Tribute paid to lonely Digger’ St George and Sutherland Shire Leader 16 June 2015, page 3.
The Arncliffe War Memorial, at the heart of Arncliffe Park in Wollongong Road, has likewise been victimised by vandals over time. It is a black memorial column mounted on a three-tiered sandstone base. The Royal Australian Navy insignia is engraved on the front; the Australian Military Forces insignia on one side and the Royal Australian Air Force insignia on the other. A plain red cross is engraved on the back of the column. At the time of writing, the cross had been scratched out, with only traces of the red paint still remaining in the indent. The memorial was also scarred with a number of graffiti scratched into the smooth surface.\(^{65}\)

The memorial also carries three plaques. The first one reads: ‘Lest we forget.’ Underneath is the dedicatory one: ‘This memorial is dedicated to members of the Allied Forces who served in all wars and conflicts.’ The third provides the details of the monument’s creation: ‘This memorial was dedicated on the 21st April 1968 by the Clergy of the … of Arncliffe.’ In an effort to protect it from vandalism, the vulnerable space has been surrounded by a fence.

The neighbouring RSL club has its own dedicated Anzac Cenotaph, a small paved space with a flagpole. The humble monument became the centre of unwanted controversy in April 2010, when a group of teenagers vandalised the site, strewing rubbish around and snapping the flagpole by swinging on it. According to police, the incident occurred some time between some time between 7.30 and 7.45pm.\(^{66}\)

As illustrated by the fate of the ‘Dolls Point Digger’, the theft of the RSL Cross at Kyeemagh on 6 November 1953,\(^{67}\) the repeated attacks on the Arncliffe War Memorial, the problem with vandalism remains an ongoing one. While desecration of such public sacred spaces may be partly prevented by education on the development and purposes of the war memorials, vandalism is a major social issue that the local Rockdale community will continue to struggle with for some time to come.

\(^{65}\) See Appendix No. 50.
\(^{66}\) (AAP) ‘Sydney war memorial attacked’ *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 April 2015
\(^{67}\) ‘Vandals at Work’ *Sun-Herald* (Sydney) 8 November 1953, page 13
Virtual Monuments

This year’s Centenary of Anzac has produced a myriad in Australia and across the world. Beyond the aforementioned renovations and restorations of physical memorials and monuments across the City area, and reflecting the increasing role of digital technology in shaping the historical record, virtual memorials have sprung up around the world wide web.

Amongst the more elaborate is ‘A City of Rockdale First World War Centenary Commemoration’ website.68 More than 2,600 names of enlistees between 1914 and 1918 have a connection with the City of Rockdale by birth, residency, family, or local honour roll. The website has therefore been designed to centralise all known available data related to servicemen and servicewomen of the suburbs of Rockdale, Arncliffe, Bexley, Kingsgrove, Brighton-Le-Sands, Ramsgate, Sandringham, Sans Souci and as well as the parts of Carlton and Kogarah which fall within the current boundaries of the City of Rockdale.

Beginning with regimental service number information and casualty details (place and date, where applicable), the website lists over 700 photos sourced from the Australian War Memorial, local honour roll portraits, contemporary newspapers and memorial publications as well as City of Rockdale World War One Honour Roll entries. The Rockdale website includes links to the Australian Imperial Force Project University of New South Wales Australian Defense Force Academy (where individual service record details may be located), the National Archives of Australia (which houses Red Cross files and military awards), as well as local and national contemporary newspaper articles. There is also a built-in website request for community input, which has produced numerous memorabilia contributions ‘on loan’.

A World War One Centenary commemoration (as Australia Remembers in 2015) of personnel connected with Rockdale (NSW) and associated suburbs

(also known as City of Rockdale) Charles Davis, First World War enlistees associated with Rockdale (NSW Australia) and surrounding suburbs.

**Centenary of ANZAC**

Under the title *Together We Remember*, Rockdale City Council presented a commemorative program of events and activities around the history and legacy of the district’s Anzacs. Highlights of the 10 March-30 April program included two public history displays: the *Australia and Lemnos – forever linked* photographic exhibition, presented with the support of the Consulate-General of Hellas for the first time; the *Together we remember* local history exhibition, presented concurrently with the Lemnos exhibition at the Rockdale Town Hall. Developed by the Council’s Local History Services Specialist, *Together we remember* detailed Rockdale’s links to ANZAC history, including information about local war veterans, drawing together photographic and written memorabilia from the NSW State Library official collection.

The Council’s program of restoration work on the various Honour Boards now housed by the City of Rockdale was also completed, with the final products being publically displayed. These are the Boards on either side of the foyer entry to the Rockdale Town Hall, with another significant one in the Pindari Room, beside Council Chambers in the main administration building. They formed key parts of the *Together we remember* exhibition.

One of the most innovative events in the centenary commemorative program was the *Love Letter Writing Workshop*, a two hour facilitated discussion including reviews of letters sent by soldiers and their families to and from the front, samples which highlight the significance of letters as the main form of communication during World War One and throughout the years that followed.

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70 Charles Davis ‘WW1 Rockdale Enlistees’ https://sites.google.com/site/ww1rockdaleenlistees/ww1-rockdale-methodist


**Conclusion**

Since the early 1900s, the people of the City of Rockdale have served in various armed forces, with their relatives and friends seeking to honour this service in a range of ways, tangible and intangible. Out of these personal experiences has emerged Rockdale’s public memory. People, events and structures have metamorphosed as reflections of their lives and times. This study is but a brief overview, a demonstration of the richness of commemoration the Rockdale community has already experienced. It closes with a recommendation: that the City Council organise an Anzac Day service for 1pm on Monday 25 April 2016, the Centenary of Rockdale’s first Anzac Day service.
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7. Rockdale RSL Club, Bay Street, Rockdale, July 2015. Photo: Panayiotis Diamadis
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10. The war memorial at the entrance to the Arncliffe RSL Club, Wollongong Road, Arncliffe, July 2015. Photo: Panayiotis Diamadis.
   [http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/bexley_002.jpg](http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/bexley_002.jpg)
14. The original Bexley Soldiers’ Memorial Hall (opened 1930).
15. The old Ramsgate RSL Club.
16. The original Bexley War Memorial. Date undetermined.
   [http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/monuments_b_001.jpg](http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/monuments_b_001.jpg)
17. The original Bexley War Memorial, corner of St George Street and Stony Creek Road, Bexley, July 2015. Photo: Panayiotis Diamadis.
18. The plaque on the original Bexley War Memorial, corner of St George Street and Stony Creek Road, Bexley, July 2015. Photo: Panayiotis Diamadis.
20. ‘For Fun. ‘Cudgelo’ Seaside Home. The House that the Children Built.’
   *Sydney Morning Herald Women’s Supplement* 25 January 1934, pages 18-19

24. The decorated Signal Box outside the eastern garden of the Rockdale War Memorial Garden, Seven Ways, Rockdale, July 2015. Photo: Panayiotis Diamadis.
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37. Mr Keith Boog with the Arncliffe Methodist Church Honour Rolls at Rockdale Town Hall. Photo: John Veage. *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, 23 April 2015.
39. Wolli Creek Permanent Way Tramway Depot War Memorial. [http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/trams_c_007.jpg](http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/trams_c_007.jpg)
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49. The south and east faces of the Arncliffe War Memorial.
50. The formerly red cross on the north face of the Arncliffe War Memorial.
51. ‘Vandals at Work’ *Sun-Herald* (Sydney) 8 November 1953, page 13