



FACT SHEET

Strathfield War Memorial

The Strathfield War Memorial is located outside the Strathfield Council Chambers on Homebush Road Strathfield. The site contains memorials to World War I and II.

The Memorial opened in 1925 and records names of residents of the Strathfield area who served during these wars. Memorials from the former Homebush and Enfield Councils are also located in Strathfield Council area.

The architectural firm of Wilson, Neave and Berry were selected to design the Strathfield War Memorial. Their design provided for a bronze sphere, representing the world, surmounting a trachyte pedestal. The sphere rests upon a cast base, enriched with the laurel wreath, and bound by the endless knot symbolising victory and ties binding the British Empire. At the four angles of the base are dolphins, emblems of British naval prowess.

On the sphere the Empire was depicted in electro-gilt (which has now faded), and the front face of the trachyte pedestal bears the inscription "Golden the links that bind our far flung Empire 1914-1918". The firm of Loveridge and Hudson carried out the trachyte works and Messrs Esdaile, the bronze work in connection to the Memorial. The cost of the Memorial in 1924 was £960.

The World War I Honour Roll tablets are erected on a wall of the Council Chambers. The World War I War Memorial was dedicated on 11 October 1925 by the Governor of NSW, His Excellency the Governor, Admiral Sir Dudley de Clair, KCB, MVO.

Among those on the platform were Mr Percy Coleman MP, Sir Thomas Henley, Mr T R Bavin (leader of the State Opposition), Mr E Sanders and Major Milton Jarvie, Colonial-Chaplain H J Rose, Chaplain H S Grimwade, Aldermen F J Wallis (president of the memorial committee), Paine, Wheeldon, Kessell, Boden, and Pilgrim, Colonel R H Beardsmore DSO, VD, Captain Rose and Mr E C Elliott (president NSW Branch Returned Sailors and Soldiers' League of Australia).

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Sir Dudley de Clair said that the memorial would be an everlasting reminder of the 350 gallant men of Strathfield who came forward to help the Empire in its hour of need. Everybody should remember what they owe to those men and that those who fell had not died in vain. His Excellency unveiled the memorial and honour roll while the guard stood at the salute, and the Last Post was sounded.

STRATHFIELD'S WAR MEMORIAL



The unveiling ceremony was performed yesterday by the Governor.

Photo featured in The Daily Telegraph, 12 October 1925

The World War I memorial consists of Honour Roll Tablets and the Memorial shaped as a globe symbolising the unity of British Empire.

The three hundred and fifty names of those to whom the Memorial has been erected are engraved on two large bronze tablets, which are placed upon the wall of the Council Chambers. A small cast plate is set between the Honour Roll Tablets, having the following description:

"This memorial is erected in honour of those associated with Strathfield who served the cause of the freedom in the Great War and whose names are here inscribed".

The memorials for World War II consist of a trachyte seat and a bronze plaque containing the names of all those residents of the Strathfield Council area who died in the Second World War. The bronze plaque is attached to the Strathfield Council Chambers building. The World War II memorial was dedicated on 26 September 1953 by the Governor of NSW, His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Northcott, KCMG, KCVO, CB, KtSt. The granite seat has the following inscription:

'In honour of those citizens who gave their lives in World War 1939-45. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Written by Cathy Jones (2018). For more information on the Strathfield War Memorial, visit www.strathfieldheritage.org