

MEDIA RELEASE



FREEMASONS
ON THE CENTRAL COAST

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25 April 2024

District 21 – Central Coast

Gosford Cenotaph Celebrates 100 Years



Gosford RSL, together with NSW Government's War Memorials Fund and Freemasons on the Central Coast have collaborated to re-furnish the War Memorial, after a century of wear and tear.

The Gosford Cenotaph was instigated by the Erina Shire Council and funds were raised by the community of Gosford and its several organisations. Erection was completed in time for the Cenotaph to be opened 100 years ago.

It was designed by Mr Gordon S. Keesing who was a principal architect for many the War Memorials that decorate the fields of battle.

Promoting Freemasonry on the Central Coast through community action, charitable relief and the advancement of education.

Freemasons on the Central Coast is a trading name of Karagi Court Limited ABN: 92 002 044 500.



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The official description from the New South Wales War Memorials Register reads as follows:

Description / Background

This sandstone cenotaph is located within Gosford Memorial Park in Gosford, NSW. It bears several inscriptions and two large honour rolls for the First and Second World Wars. Decorating the top of the memorial are several laurel wreaths and the emblems of the three service branches of the Australian Defence Force.

Adjacent to the memorial is a 25 pounder cannon.

Inscription – Front

Their name liveth for evermore.

Inscription – Side 1

Our glorious dead

Boer War 1899–1902
World War I 1914–1918
World War II 1939–1945
Korea 1950–1953
Malaya 1948–1960
Borneo 1962–1966
Vietnam 1962–1972
Iraq, East Timor, Afghanistan

Inscription – Side 2

Honour roll
1914–1919
Our glorious dead

Inscription – Side 3

Honour roll
1939–1945
Our glorious dead

Plaque

This cenotaph was restored upgraded and dedicated as a tribute to all veterans by: Gosford RSL Sub Branch, April 1988
Hon. Sec. R. C. Sturgeon Pres.

Source: <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/memorials/gosford-cenotaph>

In addition, a Lone Pine which has planted at the site, was a graft from the original Lone Pine planted at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934. It is marked by a plaque.



TENDERS RECENTLY CALLED FOR ERECTION OF WAR MEMORIAL IN THE GOSFORD PARK drew eight competitors, and prices ranged from £625 to £950. The Committee finally dealt with the matter last evening, and Messrs Harrison & Elliott's tender of £624 12s was accepted. Work is to commence on 31st instant, and to be completed within 8 weeks. The successful tenderers have their quarry in Gosford, and the stone is to be of white freestone, the sample submitted being of an excellent color. The design drawn by Mr Gordon S. Keesing, Architect, Sydney, has already been described in our columns, and is of the cenotaph type, standing 17ft high, having a face to each point of the compass, with a base to each face of approximately 6ft, tapering up wards to about 4ft. Bronze tablets will show the names of local soldiers who paid the great price. The cenotaph, though simple in design, is noble and impressive, and when unveiled will prove to be worthy of its great purpose.

The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate (NSW), 4 October 1923.



After
Photo: Graeme Ingall

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Renovation Works

The stone memorial needed to be stripped, re-pointed and sealed, with the bronze plaques had to be cleaned and sealed. Freemasons on the Central Coast provided financial assistance for the refurbishment of the 2 Honour Rolls.



Before

Photo: Coast Community News



After

Photo: Graeme Ingall

Early this month, The President and Secretary of Gosford RSL Sub-branch joined with the President and Secretary from Freemasons on the Central Coast, in inspecting the renovations. In addition, Meril Jackson gave those present a short talk on the Cenotaph's history.

The Memorial Park on which the Cenotaph is placed has been the site of Remembrance Services since 1922.

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