

The Wellington Museum also has several rooms dedicated to the memory of the District's servicemen. Several of the outlying district Honour Rolls are now housed there, many of the small halls around still retain their Memorials and Honour Rolls.

Old postcard of The Cenotaph



WELLINGTON'S WAR MEMORIALS



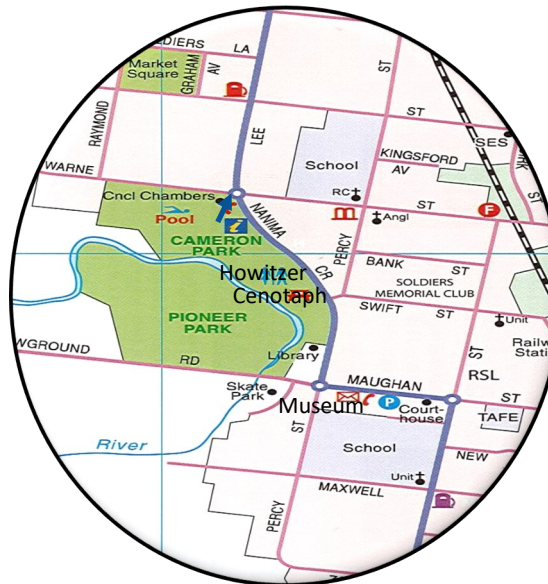
The 25 Pounder Gun Howitzer

This Australian built 25-pounder gun was presented to the people of Wellington by the R.S.L. Sub-branch on 6th November 1992, to commemorate all those Wellington and servicemen and women who served in the Second World War 1939 - 1945.

The 25-pounder was used to effect by Army Field Artillery units in both the Middle East and South West Pacific theatres of operation. It could fire an 11.3 kg (25 Pound) high explosive projectile to a maximum range of 12,260 metres (13,400 yards) and had a crew of six.



A total of 1,527 were built in Australia from 1941 to 1943.



The Cenotaph, Cameron Park
Wellington NSW



The Wellington District has a rich history of service in all theatres of war. The Cenotaph contains the names of all Wellingtonians who were killed in action or died as a result of active service. The Cenotaph was built after intense lobbying and fundraising to commemorate those who fell in World War One. In years to come those who fell in World War Two and still later Vietnam were also added.

The Cenotaph's designer, Gilbert Doble submitted his plan to make a garden, gates, plinth and statue in 1920 (winning a 100 pound prize). The plinth was dedicated in 1923. The three figures on the top were finally finished and added in 1933.

The central seated figure has a unsheathed sword on her lap, portraying a "Winged Victory" or a Nike. When viewing from the gate, the partly armoured figure on the left is "a Martial Figure, symbolizing the spirit in which Australians went into the war", she holds a knife in her left hand and a palm in her right.

The supporting figure on the right "Represents History recording in a book the deeds of those who saw service". Another popular interpretation is that the left figure is the Spartan mother and the right figure is Cleo, the muse of history.

The total cost of the project was 3000 pounds, much of which was borne by the Cenotaph's patron Murdoch McLeod.

Much discussion about the erection of the memorial saw opposition arise to the fact that only the fallen were to be honoured. So in due course the names of over eight hundred men and several nurses who served overseas in the First World War, were placed on the Marble Tablets to be housed in a Victory Hall.

This extensive marble honour roll is located inside the Wellington office of Dubbo Regional Council. It consists of multiple white marble panels, inscribed with the names of more than 800 veterans who



served in the First World War. The names are listed in alphabetical order by surname and all the letters are gilded. The last panel in the series was left free for additional names, but was never used.

The roll was originally erected in 1926 as part of a 'memorial vestibule' in the new council chambers building. All the marble work for the vestibule, including the roll, was completed by W. Larcombe and Son of Talbragar Street, Dubbo.

The £1,000 project was funded by the Victory Hall Trustees, who had aimed to build a memorial hall, but did not collect sufficient money. The trustees handed over the vestibule to the council on 5 March 1927. During the ceremony, Mayor Alderman M. Bembrick called the space "a work of art" (*Wellington Times*, 7 March 1927).

When the new council chambers were built on the same site, the roll was transferred to the stairwell of the new building. German Maxim machine guns that were allocated as War Trophies to the Wellington District in 1920. For many years it proudly stood as part of the Bodangora War Memorial. Falling into disrepair, the machine guns were rescued and taken to the Museum for safe keeping. Cleaned up and given a fresh coat of paint it is once again on display.

Memorial Gates



Across from the cenotaph at the entrance to the park are a set of memorial gates, given by prominent citizen Mr Murdoch McLeod in honour of the men from Wellington who

fought in the Great War 1914-1918. They were unveiled on 25 April 1923.

