

MEMORIALS OF ANZAC PARK

One of the most interesting parks to visit in our city is ANZAC Park situated on the Strand. Throughout the Park are many War Memorials as well as the historic Band Stand; the venue these days for many wedding ceremonies. The three oldest features in the Park are the Memorial to W.J. Castling [1908], the Band Stand [1913] and the Cenotaph [1923-24]. Both the Castling Memorial and the Cenotaph have links to the Grammar School.

W.J. Castling was one of the founders of the School in 1884 and a member of the Board of Trustees from 1888-1905. Born in Yorkshire, England, Castling came to Townsville in 1871 and soon made his mark on the city. He was a long standing alderman on the local council and steadfastly refused to be mayor. He was more interested in helping the citizens than in power. However, he did become a member of the Queensland Legislative Council [1896-1899] as the representative of the Ministerialist Party. He gave up this position as he felt he could do more for the city as an alderman.

A study of early School magazines shows that Castling was a great supporter of the School, donating many of the prizes handed out on Speech Day. Five of his sons attended the School, the most prominent of them being J.R. Castling the composer of the music for the School song and one of the original 23 students to enrol in 1888. He went on to teach at Melbourne Grammar before moving to London where he became a prominent organist.



In recognition of W.J. Castling's many achievements and charitable contributions, the citizens of Townsville erected the memorial that now stands in ANZAC Park. It is the first such memorial erected in the Park. The memorial was originally erected as a water fountain on the corner of Wickham Street and the Strand and is a finely detailed, classically derived structure reflecting the styles of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The memorial was originally constructed outside of the Park and on the verge of the road. When the road was moved because of the erection of Queens Hotel the memorial was moved into the Park. Castling drowned, aged 72, in June 1906.

The second iconic Memorial that has an association with the School is the Cenotaph. Originally named the Soldiers' Memorial and built in 1923-24 it contains the names of Townsville citizens who lost their lives during World War One. The name was changed after World War Two and all major ceremonies such as the ANZAC Day Service and the Coral Sea commemorations are now celebrated in and around the Cenotaph. The names of many former students can be found on this Memorial.



The Cenotaph is an imposing structure made of rough cut, rusticated grey granite. The original structure had four clocks situated high on the column's four faces but after World War Two the clocks were removed and replaced by bronze plaque insets. The plaques depict an eagle, crossed swords, an anchor and the seal of the city of Townsville. On the southern side of the Cenotaph is a poem written by the then Headmaster of the Grammar School, P.F. Rowland.

Mr Rowland was Headmaster from 1905 to 1938 and during that period became arguably the most prominent literary figure in the city. A great supporter of the arts and literature Mr Rowland encouraged theatre and music in the community. He was best known for his regular essays in the *Townsville Bulletin* on a variety of articles ranging from sport, politics, local community issues, theatre and well known individuals. It is estimated that he wrote over three hundred essays for the *Bulletin*.

The poem of the Cenotaph reads as follows:

*"The Moments pass, but ne'er shall die
The Memory of our honoured Dead,
Who, marching wither Duty led,
With Death not Immortality."*

*The Names of Those who paid the Price
For us, and for the Land we love,
Be Beacon-fires to all who move
On lowlier ways of sacrifice.*

ARCHIVAL POSTSCRIPT: Earlier this month a Memorial in the United Kingdom was dedicated to Australians killed while serving with Bomber Command in Europe during World War Two. The School and Past Grammarians recognise their ultimate sacrifice with honour and especially the 18 past students who gave their lives. They were: **BAIN, D.H.** [59 Squadron], **BALLARD, V.N.** [16 Operational Training Unit], **DONALD, K.C.** [466 Squadron], **GLOVER, E.A.** [51 Squadron], **HALSTEAD, W.K.** [460 Squadron], **HANSON, A.H.** [14 Operational Training Unit], **JOHNSTON, W.L.N.** [405 Squadron], **JURD, M.K.** [460 Squadron], **KENT, M.E.** [20 Operational Unit], **LITTLE, W.J.** [237 Squadron], **MacLEOD, E.R.F.** [158 Squadron], **McDONALD, D.J.** 403 Squadron], **PUGH, W.M.** [70 Squadron], **SANDERSON, L.P.** [70 Squadron], **THOMAS, C.K.** [514 Squadron], **TIPPETT, G.R.** [RAF West Freugh], **WHITE, W.J.** [9 Squadron], **WILLIAMS, C.R.** [617 Squadron].

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