

War Memorial Rededication Ceremony 2019

Rosemary Phillis

Residents of Riverstone woke to a beautiful, crisp, clear morning on Saturday 9 November 2019. At 10.30am, around 500 people gathered at the Memorial, to witness a rededication ceremony which acknowledged the centenary of the Memorial, and the fighting spirit of generations of the Riverstone Community.

It was a sunny day, but just like 100 years ago, a breeze kept the temperature down for the hour long ceremony, something appreciated by those gathered, after recent hot, windy days.

The Order of Service printed in this Journal provides an outline in simple black and white words. What it cannot capture is the emotion and spirit of the day. Every person who spoke at the ceremony had either served or a connection with men and women from their families who had served. It was the same for people who came to observe. Many were directly connected to the men listed on the Memorial. All came to pay their respects.

Leading up to the service a town crier spoke about the ceremony to come. He too had a family connection to military service.

Young people played an important role in the Cenotaph 100 ceremony. The Riverstone Girl Guides welcomed people and handed out Orders of Service. Three Guides stood patiently near the Memorial holding wreaths.

The part of the ceremony called simply "Names of the Fallen" was extremely emotional and reduced many to tears. As the name of each man listed on the Memorial was read out, a school student came out of the crowd and walked into the railway station, symbolising the path taken by the men as they left for war.

Bugler Phil O'Neal played a beautiful rendition of the Last Post, each note pitch perfect, another emotional moment for those present.

After the service many gathered at the Memorial, perhaps seeing it with fresh eyes. A bronze plaque to record the event will be cast and attached to the sandstone near the Memorial.

Photographer Warren Kirby organised to take a photo of the crowd, placing a camera in a vantage point similar to that where the original unveiling photo was taken 100 years earlier by Ernest Griffin. We hope it will be around in another 100 years for people to study and admire.

Afterwards, people went to the nearby Town Centre car park. There they looked at print outs of some of the Cenotaph 100 Facebook posts, along with old military vehicles and heritage cars, which were part of the "Rev up Rivo" display.

It was a day that those present will not forget. Riverstone at its finest and proudest.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS
OF RIVERSTONE'S FIGHTING SPIRIT

CENOTAPH 100

10:30am November 9, 2019

THE
100TH
ANNIVERSARY
AND REDEDICATION OF THE
RIVERSTONE
WAR MEMORIAL

Learn about
and contribute to
CENOTAPH 100



On 9th November 2019,
the Riverstone Community will rededicate
its War Memorial for another 100 years.

The Order of Service is overleaf,
please bring this with you on the day.
It's also likely to be a hot day
so please bring an umbrella and water with you.

Thank You.
And Be Part of History.



ORDER OF SERVICE
The 100th Anniversary & Re-Dedication of the Riverstone & District War Memorial
9th November 2019 at 10.30am

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

THE INTRODUCTION
Mike Shervington OBE

WELCOME BY THE MAYOR
Tony Bleasdale OAM, Mayor of Blacktown City Council

HYMN
O God, Our Help in Ages Past (Isaac Watt, 1719)

- 1 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Our God, our help in ages past
our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

READING
John 15:9-17
Rachael & Claire Mibus, Riverstone High School

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other". Amen.

THE COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

James Griffin MP, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Veterans

THE REDEDICATION
Chaplain Rod Bailey, RAAF

NAMES OF FALLEN
George Cowell, 18th Battalion

THE LAYING OF WREATHS
Families and Dignitaries

THE ODE OF REMEMBRANCE
'For the Fallen', Laurence Binyon, 1914
Bob Cockerill

THE LAST POST
Phil O'Neill

ONE-MINUTE SILENCE

THE ROUSE
Phil O'Neill

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
The Band of Norwest Christian College, Riverstone

Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty, rich and rare
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia fair,
In joyful strains then let us sing
"Advance Australia fair!"

UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE & CLOSING REMARKS
Mike Shervington OBE

Order of service for centenary and rededication.