Somerset
REMEMBERS

A guide to significant memorials in Somerset Region

Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Queensland
Government

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF *country*

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which we meet. Further, we embrace and promote the Somerset region's heritage to incorporate all cultures, their beliefs and aspirations.

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FROM IPSWICH

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Kilcoy 2/9th and 2/12th AIF 18th Battalion Memorial Plaques
(McCauley Street, Kilcoy)

The units arrived in the Kilcoy district after serving in Egypt and Europe during the Second World War. The soldiers, many of whom came from Queensland, were warmly welcomed to the area. The Kilcoy community opened their homes and their hearts to the soldiers. Locals who had a spare room or two welcomed their families into their homes. The Country Women's Association offered practical assistance and mended the soldiers' clothes. Dances and the movies proved to be extremely popular on Friday and Saturday nights.

The Kilcoy Roll of Honour lists the servicemen and women of Kilcoy and district who served in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions. 80 residents paid the supreme sacrifice for the defence of our country. 28 locals were taken as prisoners of war. Two prisoners of war perished in the First World War and six in the Second World War.

2 **"For Valour" Walk**
(Yowie Park, Kilcoy)

The "For Valour" Walk surrounding the lake at Yowie Park consists of plaques commemorating Kilcoy and district's military history. It includes plaques honouring medal recipients from both world wars; the units that were stationed in the district during the Second World War; and units that are currently connected with the Kilcoy district. Both current and former residents continue to honour and remember the sacrifices made in times of conflict. One example of this commitment is Alexander Caldwell Stewart who after serving in the Second World War, was the Kilcoy Shire Clerk and when he retired and moved to Brisbane, Alexander returned each year for the Anzac Day service until his death in 2001. His son, Cameron, has continued this tradition since then. Cameron also presents Kilcoy students with monetary donations to their libraries.

3 Colinton War Memorial
(D'Aguilar Highway and Emu Creek Road, Colinton)

While the township no longer exists, the memorial is heritage listed. Unveiled on 18 January 1917, it was the first memorial of its type in Queensland. Built by Frank Williams & Co., it is a beautiful and well-designed memorial that features an urn and a wreath. In 1911, Colinton had a population of 213. While 43 men are listed on the memorial, a brother with the same initials was accidently omitted from the list. Of the 44 men who enlisted, five were killed in action; one died of his wounds after the war ended, and one was a German prisoner of war. Only 13 men returned to the Colinton district after the war. Due to an upgrade in the highway after the 1974 flood, the memorial was relocated to its current location.

4 Linville War Memorial
(George Street, Linville)

A distinctive pagoda-styled memorial with terracotta shingles, the unique Linville War Memorial was designed by local serviceman Tom Cross and built by his brothers Frank and Jim. Materials were donated from the district. Another brother, Ben, who enlisted at the same time as Tom, paid the supreme sacrifice.

Tom Cross was an artist and photographer who created around 6000 cartoons, postcards and sketches while serving in the First World War. He sold thousands of his postcards, some of which were published in the satirical Punch magazine. After returning to Linville, Tom suffered from 'trench foot' a common affliction suffered by ex-servicemen, for the remainder of his life. The Australian War Memorial holds some of his cartoons and drawings.

5 Sheep Station Creek Memorial
(8km north of Kilcoy, Kilcoy Murgon Road)

The 2/10th Battalion (Adelaide Rifles) camped on the site of Sheep Station Creek in 1942, and the chimney used by the soldiers from an army recreational hut was restored by the community.

Two memorial pine trees, one standing on each side of the memorial, were planted in 1974. The pine tree on the left-hand side commemorates the work of honorary secretary of the 10th Battalion Hector Ellis. The pine tree on the right-hand side was planted in memory of local boy Jim Webster, killed in action in New Guinea in 1943. The tree was planted by his mother, Lily.

6 Moore Soldiers Memorial Hall and Peace Garden
(Main Street, North)

The *'Queensland Times'* reported on 26 June 1920, that a committee which included many First World War veterans had been formed to build a memorial hall. Opening in 1922, the Moore Soldiers Memorial Hall was built to honour those who enlisted in the First World War.

Located inside the hall is a large, framed, hand-sewn banner commemorating Moore's fundraising efforts for the Red Cross during the Second World War. The names of the 87 women are individually listed. They raised an outstanding £3167-18-1, which in today's terms equates to well over $277,000. The money was raised from dances, raffles, cash donations and fetes. In 1943 the Moore Red Cross Society fete raised £422, including cash donations and proceeds from the dance.

In May 2021, the hall received a grant to create a peace garden which contains a sculpture of a globe, adjacent to the hall.

7 Moore Rolls of Honour
(Moore Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Main Street North)

The rolls of honour are located in the memorial hall. The First World War memorial has a timber backing and is made of beaten copper. 51 names are listed, including names of 10 diggers who were killed in action. In 1915, according to the *'Queensland Times'*, Moore turned out to farewell six popular athletic boys from the district. They were presented with a shaving kit, and the festivities concluded by singing "Auld Lang Syne".

James Boneham, listed on the First World War honour board, did not return home; he died from mustard gas poisoning in France on 16 March 1918. His personal effects were on the SS Barunga, which was torpedoed on 15 July that year. On board were also the belongings of Harold Vincent Brightwell who was born in Fernvale.

The Second World War memorial features pressed metal with brass name plates. 31 names are listed on the memorial.

8 Toogoolawah War Memorial
(Cressbrook Street, Toogoolawah)

An impressive historically significant monument with a broken obelisk, the Toogoolawah War Memorial was the second monument of its kind built in Queensland. Of the 197 men from the district who enlisted to serve in the First World War, 38 died.

In the Second World War, Watt's Bridge Airfield, just outside of Toogoolawah, was built for defence purposes. On 17 September 1943, Pilot Officer A.F.B. Thorley died after an attempted emergency landing on the airfield.

Prominent servicemen from Toogoolawah include Richard Harold Marson, who served in the Second World War, and the Borneo and Korean conflicts. He was a lieutenant colonel who received honours and awards including the United States Legion of Merit when acting as liaison officer for the armed forces of the United Nations in 1950 during the Korean War. Also born in Toogoolawah was Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville McNamara, who served in the Second World War and the Korean and Vietnam wars. From 1982 to 1984, he was the chief of the defence force staff, the highest military role at the time.

9 Esk War Memorial
(Memorial Park, Ipswich Street, Esk)

The noble and dignified Esk War Memorial is of Queensland heritage significance. Built on a sandstone plinth, it features marble panels and bronze honour rolls of those from the Somerset Region who enlisted in the First World War.

The memorial was built by Frank Williams, a relative of the Williams family from Stonehouse near Moore, and designed by the well- respected and prolific Ipswich architect George Brockwell Gill. 83 soldiers from the First World War who paid the supreme sacrifice are listed on the memorial.

A plaque honouring those who died in the Second World War was added in 1991. A plaque commemorating the 2/11th Australian Field Regiment who camped at Coominya and Woodford in the Second World War was placed on the memorial in 1992.

10 Esk and District Roll of Honour
(Diggers Memorial Hall, Ipswich Street, Esk)

The Diggers Memorial Hall was opened on 16 April 1955. Renovations to the hall were completed in 2021 and the former kitchen and dining rooms were repurposed into a museum on 19 March 2021 to house their historical collection including the Esk and District Honour Board.

The Esk and District Roll of Honour timber board acknowledges the men and women who served in the Second World War. One example of the many families spanning generations who served in wars, is the well-known Chaille family. Wilfred (Pat) Chaille was killed in the First World War and buried in Jerusalem. His nephew, serving in the Royal Australian Air Force as an airman in the Second World War visited Jerusalem and was able to view his uncle's grave. A niece, Lois Chaille, served in the Australian Women's Army Service, and after the Second World War married Frank Hayes from Sydney, a former prisoner of war.
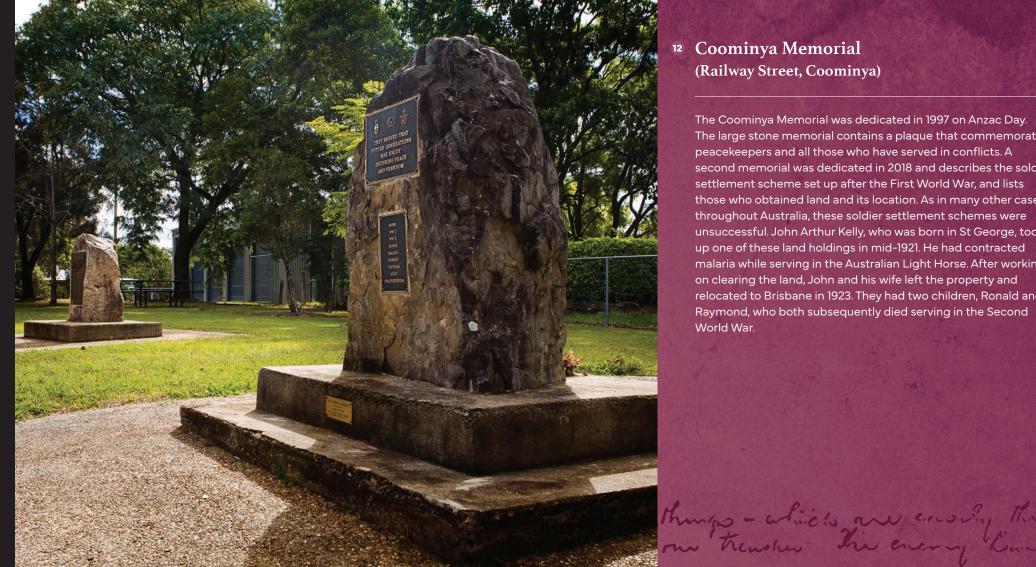
11 Esk Mural
(Ipswich Street, Esk)

Allora brothers Malcolm and Kerry Nicholson took three months to create the mural representing the attack of the Australian Light Horse on Beersheba. The delay was due in part to COVID-19 restrictions. It was commissioned by the Esk Diggers RSL Memorial Club and is a striking image on the building next to the Diggers Memorial Hall. It was dedicated on 30 October 2023 along with the unveiling of a plaque. 800 Light Horsemen successfully charged the town of Beersheba, capturing the Sinai Peninsula during the First World War and securing the town's vital water supply.

Inside the Esk Diggers RSL's Memorial Club museum is an original battle map of the 5th Light Horse operations, a Light Horse display and a Light Horse slouch hat.

12 Coominya Memorial
(Railway Street, Coominya)

The Coominya Memorial was dedicated in 1997 on Anzac Day. The large stone memorial contains a plaque that commemorates peacekeepers and all those who have served in conflicts. A second memorial was dedicated in 2018 and describes the soldier settlement scheme set up after the First World War, and lists those who obtained land and its location. As in many other cases throughout Australia, these soldier settlement schemes were unsuccessful. John Arthur Kelly, who was born in St George, took up one of these land holdings in mid-1921. He had contracted malaria while serving in the Australian Light Horse. After working on clearing the land, John and his wife left the property and relocated to Brisbane in 1923. They had two children, Ronald and Raymond, who both subsequently died serving in the Second World War.

13 Coominya Honour Boards
(27 Main Street, Coominya)

Honour boards for both world wars are located in the Coominya Public Hall. On the First World War board, 29 names are listed, including six who made the supreme sacrifice. The Second World War honour board was unveiled on Saturday 29 November 1941 by Colonel W. Patrick. 32 names are listed on it. Coominya hosted a First World War Light Horse detachment in the area, and in the Second World War, the Australian Imperial Force had various large camps in the region. The Royal Australian Air Force 11 Repair and Salvage Unit in 1943 also camped there. The Coominya community set up a Red Cross Society to raise funds in both world wars to support the war effort.

HONOUR ROLL
A.I.F.
PRO REGE ET PATRIA.
COOMINYA
& DISTRICT.

J. ANDERSON K	A. MUIR
A. BARBAT K	M. McKEE
V. BARBAT	R. NOTELY
F.W. BANFF	P. NEWMAN
H. BROWNLESS	E. NEWMAN K
F. CURRY	G. NEWMAN
P.A. DOLAN	J. O'REILLY
M. EVANS	T. O'REILLY
J.J. GUTTERIDGE	W. PATRICK
A. GOFFIN	G. SMITH
C. HARRIS	A. SMITH
E.K. HEERS	N. TAPSALL
G. JOHNSTON	E. TAPSALL K
W. LEWIS K	J. PEARCE
S. MUIR K	

COOMINYA & DISTRICT
HONOUR BOARD
WORLD WAR
1939 - 1945

A·I·F	R·A·A·F
OTTOSEN. C.F.	BRIDGES. T.W.
HOUGH. H.T.	CATTANACH. E.K.
CARTWRIGHT. L.G.	DIXON. E.C.
CONNORS. N.	MUNRO. R.D.
PLOTZKI. E.	RABBETS. F.T.
SHARPE. J.A.	HICKEY. V.E.F.
CORNHILL. R.J.	WEIER. K.
ANDERSON. J.	OTTOSEN. C.F.
COMAN. G.	
HANRAHAN. P.F.	R·A·N
FRANCIS. J.H.	
TAPSALL. C.E.	PENDER. F
MORRIS. R.J.	PLOTZKI. A.M
ANDERSON. R.J.	WILLS. F.C
ANDERSON. A.N.	OTTOSEN. C.J.
HEERS. W.K.	
EDYVEAN. D.	BANFF. P. A.W.A.S.
MUCKERT. K.E.	ANDERSON. A.I.

14 **Mt Tarampa RAAF Base Memorial**
(Forest Hill Fernvale Road near Daisy Road,
Mount Tarampa)

The Lowood Airfield became an important base for many squadrons during the Second World War including two United States Air Force fighter squadrons. At its operational peak, the site had 138 individual buildings and sporting facilities, and was able to accommodate 700 people. In 1943 the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force used two converted barracks. The airfield became an integral communications base for the war in the Pacific.

During the Second World War, the Royal Australian Air Force base had an impact on this small community. Past students of Lockrose State School have memories of the base. One student recalls Air Force personnel marching past their home on Sundays; another recalled that in the evenings the search light would light up the mountain searching for enemy aircraft, and others remember the aircraft crashes. During the Second World War, at least 12 crew from the Lowood base died from these crashes.

15 Lowood War Memorial
(Clock Park, Peace Street, Lowood)

Located in Clock Park in Peace Street, the memorial was presented by Esk Council in March 1988.

According to local researchers, over 100 volunteers served in the First World War, and of these 70 were born in Lowood or the surrounding communities. 27 were killed in the First World War and 60 killed in action in the Second World War. Two died in the Vietnam War. Services for both Anzac Day and Remembrance Day are well attended by the public. The Lowood State High School has its own memorial, which was dedicated in 2014.

RAAF No.23 (City of Brisbane)
(Dive Bomber) Squadron
RAAF Base Lowood
6 June 1942 - 30 April 1944

16 Lowood RSL Anzac Cove Memorial
(2801 Forest Hill Fernvale Road, Lowood)

The Lowood RSL sub branch was formed in 1933, and the land for "Anzac Cove" was purchased in 1987. Under each of the abundant trees on the property is a plaque in memory of a member who has passed on.

At the entrance to the Anzac Cove Memorial is a 500-pound high drag bomb used in Vietnam. Inside the RSL is a pair of Iroquois helicopter blades donated by No. 9 Squadron used in the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, many organisations in the district made up comfort packages for the locals serving in Vietnam. In 1967, a returned soldier addressed a sub-branch meeting and expressed his and his mates' appreciation for the parcels that were received from home.

In 2010, the Lowood RSL, with the assistance from community sponsors, built a memorial that is made from Helidon sandstone and includes lighting, paving and a commemorative wall.

17 Fernvale War Memorial
(Fernvale Memorial Park, Brisbane Valley Highway, Fernvale)

The Fernvale War Memorial located in Fernvale Memorial Park consists of two stone memorials with a concrete base. The earlier memorial was unveiled in 1997 and commemorates those who served in conflicts and as peacekeepers. The smooth sandstone memorial lists the soldiers who served in the First World War and was unveiled on 11 November 2018. The flagpole originally commemorated those who served in the Second World War.

Fernvale was home to Colonel John Francis Flewell-Smith, farmer, who served as a commanding officer in both the Boer War and the First World War. His diaries are held at the State Library of Queensland.

Stanley Francis Denning, a past pupil of Lark Hill State School, served in the Second World War and was a prisoner of war on the Burma-Thai railway and then was sent to Changi jail. He managed to survive and although he lived in Ipswich he returned regularly and spoke to school students. He was remembered as being a captivating speaker to his young audience. He became a life member of RSL Queensland in 1968.

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