

Media Release



State Library of NSW is asking 'Where are the last of the lost war memorials?'

After more than 10 years of searching by volunteers, the State Library's War Memorials Register of NSW has located all but a few of the memorials dedicated to our servicemen and women.

In honour of Remembrance Day and the centenary of WWI this year, the State Library is now calling on the local community to help locate the last of NSW's lost war memorials.

The War Memorials Register of NSW is a searchable database that was established in 2002 as an initiative of the State Library of NSW and the Returned Services League, NSW Branch with support from the NSW Government.

Since then the number of registered NSW memorials in the database has grown to nearly 2,400, with over 210,000 names of servicemen and women documented.

However, it is estimated that there are more than 3,000 memorials in NSW and the team behind the project wants to know 'where are the last of the lost war memorials?'

"War memorials have been discovered in the most unusual places ... baby health centres, isolated churches, swimming pools, fish ponds, caves, restaurants. War memorials that haven't been registered yet could be right under our feet or above our heads," said Alex Byrne, NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive.

Volunteer Keith Maxwell, President of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad unearthed a war memorial known only to local bushwalkers when he contributed one of the register's most recent additions on behalf of Bushwalking NSW.

The aptly named Bushwalker's War Memorial at Splendour Rock is only accessible by foot and only for the determined, as Keith says: it is "a half day or more [walk] from nearest car park." The simple bronze plaque was erected on Anzac Day in 1948 to commemorate the memory of Bushwalkers who fell in World War II.

"We rely on dedicated members of the public, from professional researchers to school students, who go out into their local community and find, photograph and record these memorials", said Dr Byrne.

"It is important that we locate the lost tributes to our servicemen and women, to contribute to the story about Australians' experiences of the First World War and other wars and the drive of communities and organisations to remember those who served."

To locate a war memorial in your local town, or register a new memorial, go to:
www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au

For more information, interviews and images, please contact:
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