

27 July 2016

MEMORIAL BOOK RELOCATED TO NEW RESTING PLACE

Lest. We. Forget. Those three words are echoed through civic halls, memorial gardens and cenotaphs throughout the country every year. And in the early 1960s, it had been on the minds of the Aldermen of the era.

Fifty-odd years ago, in a time honoured tradition to commemorate and show the utmost respect to those who gave their lives to serve our community and country, a special project was in the making to immortalise the names of the local men and women who perished during the course of the Boer War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

Following two years of planning, researching and creating, a Memorial Book was finally unveiled on Sunday 16 April 1967; at the same time the Ryde Cenotaph was dedicated.

Chairman of the Centenary of ANZAC and Commemoration of WWI Committee, Mayor Jerome Laxale, said: "This book was a fitting tribute to those fallen soldiers and the families they left behind and a significant piece of local history.

"Despite the years' that have passed, it is important for the community to know that their names will be remembered. Every day we acknowledge their sacrifice, honour and courage."

Fast forward to the recent closure of the Ryde Civic Centre and once again, the Memorial Book has needed its own dedicated team of planners to facilitate its move to a new location.

On Thursday 21 July 2016, the book officially left the Civic Centre to be housed permanently at its new resting place in Ryde Library.

"Our library staff have been heavily involved in the Ryde Remembers project to mark the Centenary of World War I, so it's a fitting new home for this important piece of post-war history.

"The Memorial Book will now take pride of place in a special glass cabinet for all to enjoy."

The Memorial Book features one name per page, and where known, a service record number and date of death.

"As per the original wishes of the Aldermen of the 1960s, a new page is turned each day to ensure each name lives on."

The Memorial Book can be viewed at Ryde Library during normal opening hours. To check opening times, visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library