

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIALS WARDENS OF THE WA STATE MEMORIAL

The role of the Warden of the State War Memorial was determined at the meeting of the State Executive of the WA Branch of the RSL held on 27 November 1929 at which the following report titled *The Future Care of the Memorial*, submitted by the Memorial's Management Committee, was endorsed:

“It may be necessary to recall to mind that some years ago the public was invited to subscribe funds for the erection of a memorial to honour those Western Australians who died in the war of 1914-18. This movement was not initiated by the League. The appeal was a failure. At a later date the League revived the project. Through its action the present State War memorial Committee came into being, and our gratitude is due to its members for their work and the satisfactory success they have secured.

The approaching completion of the structure portends the disbandment of the Committee, and the State Executive having accepted, on behalf of the WA Branch of the League, the future care of the memorial, will be charged with its upkeep, and for the adoption of such measures as will ensure that due respect is paid by all to the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of the country.

Towards securing these ends, your committee feels that there will be no lack of voluntary effort, but unless such efforts are properly coordinated, the best results will not ensue.

The responsibility of the league as regards the monument itself, extends only over the area covered by the foundations of the structure, and it is thought that its cleanliness can be most effectively attended to by an officer of the park Board, the cost of whose services should be a matter for arrangement between the Board and the League.

On the question of the general care of the memorial, your Committee is of the opinion that the duty will be jealously sought after by various associations and individuals, and, after mature consideration, recommends that the annual State congress appoint for a period of twelve months –

The Warden who shall be a citizen of the State distinguished in peace or war.

The Warden's Assistants, who shall be members of a sub-branch of the League, or of some association of organisation whose objects are primarily directed towards the cultivation of good citizenship, and of service to others.

The Warden shall make a report in writing to the Annual State Congress, and interim reports, as he may deem to be necessary, to the President and executive of the Branch.

Funds for the maintenance of lighting and other services, and for repairs, will have to be found by the League, but therein no great difficulty is anticipated. Already there has been received from Sir Thomas Coombe a most generous offer to meet all the expense that may arise during his lifetime. Your Committee places great value upon the action of Sir Thomas Coombe, and, in recommending that it be accepted only in so far as the cost of supplying the current for flood-lighting and renewals is concerned, is influenced by the firm conviction that many of the relatives of those whose names appear on the tablets, would most reluctantly forego the opportunity of again rendering homage to their dead by contributing to the upkeep of the Memorial erected in their honour

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Your Committee finally recommends that there is established a fund to endow the Memorial. That a joint appeal by the League and the State War Memorial Committee be made through the public press, and that contributions in any sum from one shilling upwards be invited. The fund to be vested in the Trustees of the League.”

Extract from page 22 of The Listening Post, Volume 8, Edition 12, dated 20 December 1929.

Roll of Wardens

Wardens serve for a one-year term from Remembrance Day. The names are as shown on the Honour Board displayed at RSL WA State Headquarters where some ex-Service Members are shown with their rank and others are not. Some post nominal awards shown on this list were granted after the Warden's role had been discharged.

The Memorial was unveiled on 24 November 1929.

- 1930 Sir William Lathlain (Lord Mayor of Perth (1930-1932)) (1862-1936)
- 1931 Lieutenant General Sir Joseph John Talbot Hobbs KCB KCMG VD (1st AIF) Architect (1864-1938)
- 1932 Sir Charles Samuel Nathan KB CBE (Civil) (1870-1936)
- 1933 Brigadier General Alfred Joseph Bessell-Browne CB CMG DSO VD (War in South Africa, 1st AIF, WWII Service) (1877-1947)
- 1934 The Honourable John Nicholson OBE (Civil) (1867-1941)
- 1935 Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Richard Harricks Roberts DSO MBE VD (1st AIF, 11th Btn) (1874-1943)
- 1936 Alexander McCallum MBE (1st AIF, 11th Btn) (1878-1937)
- 1937 Colonel Charles Henry Lamb MC (1st AIF, 44th Btn) (1882-1956)
- 1938 Arthur Wellington Jacoby OBE (Civil) (-1959)
- 1939 William H Melvin JP (-1953)
- 1940 Brigadier General Edward Fowell Martin CB CMG DSO VD (1875-1950)
- 1941 Robert O Law (-1947)
- 1942 Colonel William Owen Mansbridge DSO VD (1st AIF) (1872-1958)
- 1943 James William Vivian (1879-1957)
- 1944 A Yates OBE
- 1945 William Allnut Saw (1860-1949) ?
- 1946 Athol Joseph Hobbs (2nd AIF) (1899-1979) (Son of Sir Talbot Hobbs)
- 1947 A V Hunt (Commissioner Boy Scouts)
- 1948 Alexander Hugh Pantom CMG (War in South Africa, 1st AIF, 51st Btn) (1878-1951)
- 1949 H B Jackson KC
- 1950 Air Commodore Raymond James Brownell CBE MC MM (1st AIF, 9th Bty, RFC, WWII RAAF) (1894-1974) (H)
- 1951 Sir Robert Ross McDonald QC MLA (1st AIF) (1888-1964)
- 1952 Mr Alexander James Reid CMG ISO (1890-1968)
- 1953 Mr Frank Thomas Boan (1907-1968) (H)
- 1954 Mr Ralph Herbert Doig CMG CVO BA (1909-2005)
- 1955 Mr Owen George Campbell Egan (1st AIF, 28th Btn) (1891-1960)

LEST WE FORGET

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- 1956 Sir Joseph Totterdell (Lord Mayor of Perth 1945-1953) (1885-1959)
1957 William John Hunt MBE (Civil) (1st AIF, 11th Btn) (1890-1969) (H)
1958 Sir Thomas William Meagher KB KStJ (Lord Mayor of Perth 1939) (1902-1979)
1959 Sir Charles George Latham KB MLC (1st AIF, 16th Btn) (1882-1968)
1960 The Honourable Justice Lawrence Walter Jackson CMG (2nd AIF) (1914-1993)
1961 Mr John Ernest Watson MM (1st AIF, 28th Btn) (1895-1977)
1962 Mr David Allester Freecorn (1st AIF, Reinf) (1895-1969)
1963 Sir Joseph Francis (Frank) Ledger (1st AIF, AFC) (1899-1993)
1964 Mr Edwin Stanley Watt (1st AIF, 14th LHR) (1890- 10May1965) (H)
1964 Mr George Kingston Baron-Hay CBE MC (May – Nov) (1st AIF, 51st Btn) (1895-1989)
1965 Mr Charles Robert Bunning (2nd AIF) (1905-1994)
1966 Air Vice Marshal Lancelot Miller Corbet CB CBE RAF (WWII RAF) (1899-1990)
1967 The Honourable Leslie Charles Diver MLC (1899-1995)
1968 Brigadier George Percy Hunt CBE RL (H)
1969 Alfred Charles Curlewis CMG (1905-1971)
1970 Air Commodore Edgar Bruce Courtney MVO OBE (WWII RAAF) (1914-1999) (H)
1971 G R Simpson
1972 Mr Francis West Statham OBE ED (2nd AIF) (1916-1999) (H)
1973 The Honourable Sir Crawford David Nalder (2nd AIF) (1910-1994)
1974 Lieutenant Commander John James Johnson MBE (H)
1975 Mr Frank Arthur Yeates OBE (Civil) OSTJ (1905-1995)
1976 Henry Douglas Dargie (WWII RAAF) (1925- (H)
1977 The Honourable John Trezise Tonkin AC MLA (WA Premier 1971-1974) (1902-1995)
1978 Air Commodore Samuel William Dallywater OBE (WWII RAAF) (1922-2003) (H)
1979 Doctor Haydn Stanley Williams CBE (1917-2003)
1980 Lieutenant Commander Leon Verdi Goldsworthy GC DSC GM (WWII RAN) (1909-1994)
(H)
1981 Mr Don Aitken BE FIE(Aust) FGIT, FAM (Commissioner of Main Roads)
1982 Air Commodore John Wilkins Hubble CBE DSO AFC & Bar ED (WWII RAAF) (1923-
1992) (H)
1983 Mr Byron Keith Smart JP (2nd AIF) (1917-1996)
1984 Brigadier George Frederick Larkin CBE. (2nd AIF) (1917-1985) (H)
1984 Mr Ron Nathan Stone AM JP (2nd AIF) (1920-2007) (H)
1985 Mr Keith Vaux Mattingley AO AM (H)
1986 Commodore David James Orr (1931-2017) (H)
1987 Sir George Montario Bedbrook Kt, OBE, OSTJ (WWII RAN) (1921-1991)
1988 Sister Vivian Statham AO MBE ARRC FNM ED FCNA (2nd AIF Nurse, PoW) (1915-2000)
1989 Captain (Merchant Navy) Roy Ernest Marsh (WWII Service) (1924-2004) (H)
1990 Sir Frederick Charles Chaney KBE CBE AFC (WWII RAAF) (1914-2001)
1991 Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE (2nd AIF) (1911-2007) (H)
1992 Max Winford Bevilaqua OAM (2nd AIF) (1923-)
1993 J. Russell
1994 Rear Admiral Phillip Graham Newman Kennedy AO RAN (H)
1995 Mr Jeffrey William Newman OAM
1996 Colonel William Musson GM (1928-2006) (H)
1997 Michael George Kailis CBE AM CitWA, Hon DSc (Curtin) (1929-1999)
1998 The Honourable Victor Jasper Ferry DFC JP (WWII RAAF) (1922-2008) (H)

LEST WE FORGET

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- 1999 Mrs Annette Grace Knight AM JP CitWA
- 2000 Maxwell Henry Shean DSO and Bar (WWII RAN) (1918-2008) (H)
- 2001 Mr Kevin Victor Campbell AM
- 2002 Brigadier Ernest Laurence Palmer AO
- 2003 Dr Patricia Verne Kailis AM OBE (H)
- 2004 Mr Peter Lynn Hummerston RFD (WWII RAAF) (1923-2015) (H)
- 2005 The Honourable Richard Court AC (WA Premier 1993-2001) (H)
- 2006 Commodore Clement John Littleton AO RAN (H)
- 2007 The Honourable David Kingsley Malcolm AC QC CitWA, KCSJ
- 2008 Mr Kenneth Victor Barrington (Army, Korea) (1933-2012)
- 2009 Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall (Executive Director Hollywood Hospital)
- 2010 Group Captain Gordon Ian Petkoff AM (H)
- 2011 Dr Ruth Shean JP, FAICD, FCIS (H) (Daughter of Max Shean)
- 2012 Commodore Steven Davies RAN
- 2013 Mrs Jan Stewart PSM
- 2014 Brigadier Duncan Warren AM RFD (H)
- 2015 Mr Peter King (Deputy Repatriation Commissioner WA)
- 2016 Wing Commander Christine Pittman
- 2017 Brigadier David Thompson AM
- 2018

(H) = RSL Highgate Sub-Branch (Founded 1947) Member

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