

ROLL OF HONOUR O'CONNELL ANZAC MEMORIAL AVENUE

Men and women who enlisted from O'Connell and district in WW1.

The Roll of Honour includes residents and children of residents of O'Connell Plains, O'Connell, Locksley (Dirty Swamp), Brewongle, Bolton Vale, Bloom Hill, Wisemans Creek, Bosworth Falls, Eight-Mile

ADAMS, Durcan Joseph
 ARTERY, William Albert †
 BARTLETT, Leslie Thomas
 BARTLETT, Thomas
 BOSWORTH, Arthur †
 BROWN, Alfred Thomas
 BURNS, Ida Anne
 CANTWELL, John Patrick †
 CHARMAN Claude Athol †
 CLANCY, Edward
 COOK, John Joseph
 FAIR, Harry Stuart (?) †
 GALLAGHER, Sydney Frances
 GORNALL Edgar Alan
 GRIBBLE, Clement John †
 HARRIS, Cecil Disney
 HARRIS, Jack Bolton †
 HARRIS, Robert Henry
 HARRIS, Joseph
 HITCHCOCK, Stanley Claude
 HOWARD, Claude Henry
 KESSEY, James Harold
 LAWLER, Arthur Harold †
 MAULSBURY, Charles Alec
 MAULSBURY, John Rodenick
 MACDONALD, Donald †
 McPAE, Herbert Henry
 McPAE, Leopold George
 McGINNISKIN, Aflán Percy
 McNAMARA, John Joseph
 NORTHCOTT, William Fox
 PENNEFATHER, Wilfred Edward
 PENNEFATHER, Hugh Frank

PURDON, Cecil Allan
 PURDON, Edith Agnes
 PURDON, Leslie Frederick †
 PURDON, Reginald Arthur
 PURDON, Sydney Victor
 PURDON, William Henry
 QUELCH, William Jack
 REA, Bertram William
 RICHARDSON, Norman Body
 RODDEN, Daniel
 ROSE, Angus Guy
 ROSE, Clive Harold
 RYAN, Mathew James
 RYAN, Patrick Matthew
 RYAN, Michael Joseph
 SEYMOUR, Aubrey Isaac
 SEYMOUR, Ernest William
 SEYMOUR, Walter Leslie
 SEYMOUR, Albert John
 SEYMOUR, Arthur Frederick †
 SIMMONS, Thomas
 SPICER, Harold Spencer †
 TODD, Herbert Levin
 TREATT, Rupert Holman
 TREATT, Vernon Haddon
 TRICHON, Eugene Edmund
 WADE, William Edward
 WALTON, Robert John
 WEEKES, Arthur Sidney
 WEST, Bertram Edwin
 WEST, Henry Richard
 WILLIAMS, Reginald Percy
 WILSON, Evelyn Clara

† Killed in action

Historic O'Connell

Assistant Surveyor, George Evans, passed through the area on his journey of exploration and survey in December 1813. He named the area 'O'Connell Plains', after the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Maurice O'Connell. O'Connell was on the first road from Sydney to Bathurst (Cox's Road) from 1815 until the route was changed in the mid 1830s.

O'Connell is situated on the Fish River, and the surrounding plain is cleared and surrounded by rising country.

The O'Connell Anzac Memorial Avenue is a key element within the O'Connell Urban Conservation Area which is currently listed on the National Trust Register. It comprises five groups of buildings (a total of 12 buildings) and the Avenue.

The Avenue is important as the element within the Urban Conservation Area which links the building groups.

As an item the Avenue is the predominant element of the cultural and physical landscape within the O'Connell valley.



Website: www.oconnellmemorial.com

O'CONNELL ANZAC MEMORIAL AVENUE

1914—1918
Lest We Forget

Planted by the community in 1925-58, 1926
Dedicated in 1925

The History of the O'Connell Anzac Memorial Avenue

The O'Connell Anzac Memorial Avenue is a living war memorial. It is dedicated to those servicemen and women from the local community who served during the First World War. Of the thirty-six men and women of O'Connell who enlisted, ten were killed in action.

The project was inaugurated in March 1925 and was officially opened by Field Marshall Lord Allenby on 25 January 1926. Mr Eddie Cornell, the president of the O'Connell Progress Association, and a group of men and women of the community planted the trees. The local people held dances and musical events to raise funds for the project. The O'Connell community holds fund raising activities to continue this tradition.

The Memorial has continuing relevance as it commemorates the contribution and, in some cases, supreme sacrifice of those who served in World War I, including relatives of current members of the O'Connell and Bathurst community.

The Memorial Avenue is registered on the list of war memorials in NSW and has state and national recognition. It is listed on the Register of the National Trust NSW.

The 120 desert ash trees will continue to prosper if given the care and attention needed to maintain the Avenue as a living memorial.

The *Community Guardians of the O'Connell Anzac Memorial Avenue* are actively involved in preserving, protecting and maintaining the trees.

About the desert ash trees

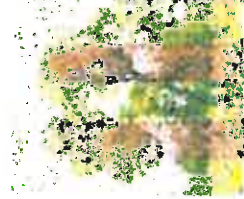
The desert ash species is native to northern Africa and southern Europe, the area where the troops fought. Trees symbolise stability, life and immortality.

The trees were grown in the Bathurst Experimental farm for the Sydney Botanical Gardens which supplied the trees to the community working bees.

There are 120 trees remaining in the Memorial Avenue, although it is not known how many were originally planted. While

34 soldiers and two nurses have been identified as having come from or been associated with the village of O'Connell, it is probable that the length of the avenue was not determined by the number of soldiers. Rather it was to create a symbol of grandeur and honour which would move the minds and hearts of O'Connell residents. Most certainly it was a community effort of deeply significant and enduring proportions.

(Extract from *A Memorial to the Soldiers of O'Connell* produced by the O'Connell Village Preservation Group)



Memorial banners at the Remembrance Day service

Newspaper Reports about the Avenue in 1925 and 1926

The movement to have a Memory Avenue planted at O'Connell is receiving enthusiastic support. A working bee has been arranged for Saturday to cut poles for tree guards, while a meeting of ladies has been called to arrange for social functions, and provide meals for the workers. The first social in aid of the Avenue movement is listed for April 29, when Hurrell's orchestra will furnish the music. The secretary of the Avenue Committee has been advised by the curator of the botanical gardens that desert ash trees are the most suitable for the avenue.

Bathurst Times 17 April, 1925.

The work on the Memorial avenue is going along well. Oberon Shire Council has had men at work grading and ploughing the road preparing for planting the trees. The residents have been at work cutting, carting and sawing off poles for tree-guards. In a few weeks' time the trees should be planted on the eastern portion of the avenue.

Bathurst Times 18 July, 1925

Lord Allenby said he was very pleased to open this avenue in memory of those gallant soldiers who died in the Great War. It was very fitting that this avenue had been made in the memory of those great Australian soldiers, who gave their lives for the great cause and as these trees grew they must think of the men who gave their lives for their country. He then declared the avenue open, and Lady Allenby cut the ribbon.

Western Times, 22 January, 1926

Lord Allenby ... said that he felt it a very great honor to be asked to declare open an avenue dedicated to the memory of the gallant Australians who fell in the war. He had had the honor of leading many Australian and he never wished to lead braver troops. Their names would live forever in the gallant deeds they had performed for the Empire and it was fitting that their memory should be perpetuated by an avenue of that kind.

Bathurst National Advocate, 21 January, 1926