



RSLWA

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

MEMORIALS POLICY

References:

- A. Memorandum of Understanding between The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority dated 3 May 2018 (State War Memorial)
- B. Inscription Criteria for the State War Memorial dated 13 February 2012
- C. Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Website (www.bgpa.wa.gov.au)

BACKGROUND

The Board of Directors (BoD) of The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated hereafter abbreviated as RSLWA, periodically receive requests from Associations, Councils and Shires for the addition of new memorials, memorial refurbishments and the change of location to existing memorials. The purpose of this Memorials Policy is to provide clear parameters for the Board's decision-making regarding possible future memorial requests.

The BoD defines a memorial as a statue, plinth, plaque, sign, object, building, public amenity (such as a bench), garden bed, and / or dedicated tree that has commemoration as its primary purpose.

MEMORIAL OWNERSHIP

This can be split into two distinct areas:

- i) Those owned by Local Government in respective geographical areas outside of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority jurisdiction.
- ii) Those within the area of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, which is managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA).

MEMORIALS OWNED BY STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Many Shires and Councils have refurbished their local memorials during the Centenary period. In the majority of circumstances RSLWA has offered advice or comment to the local administration through the local Sub branch. RSLWA and its 129 sub branches can do no more than this as ownership lies entirely within the local government authority.

Policy – that correspondence be discussed at the next available Board meeting as an information item only. Whilst response will primarily be to support the local Sub Branch the outcome lies entirely with the local administrative authority.

MEMORIALS WITHIN KINGS PARK AND BOTANIC GARDEN/BGPA

The Board of BGPA has a responsibility under the BGPA Act to conserve the State War Memorial (SWM) in Kings Park and Botanic Garden including the Cenotaph, the Flame of Remembrance and the Court of Contemplation. RSLWA is responsible for matters/areas of the SWM as addressed at Reference A. A close liaison with the BGPA when considering any proposals for development in this area is imperative.

Outside of this SWM precinct, Kings Park has more memorials, statues and honour avenues than any other park in Australia. It is home to 53 formally built memorials, as well as over 1760 memorial plaques which line the honour avenues (see Annex A). The majority of these

plaques honour service personnel who enlisted in Western Australia, died during war service and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.

The Board of the BGPA does not want to detract from the existing memorials and the general aesthetics and open space of the Kings Park parkland areas by approving any new memorials, particularly in the Fraser Avenue, State War Memorial and Botanic Garden precincts.

Specifically, the BGPA Board supports the view expressed in the Kings Park Conservation Plan, which states that the 'erection of new memorials within Kings Park should be strictly limited to prevent the proliferation of structures within the park'.

The BoD of RSLWA fully supports this view.

Both Boards acknowledge that some additional and specific military memorials have been approved in Kings Park in the past, but recognise the importance of maintaining its premium open space for recreational purposes.

Policy - The BoD agreed at the meeting of 1 March 2018 to support requests for recognition of formally declared conflicts for example Iraq, Afghanistan or Middle East and for which RSLWA will take the lead. This recognition may include the addition of a plaque or additional wording to an already existing memorial. RSLWA will not support a new stand alone structure within the SWM precinct in Kings Park.

Requests for additional inscriptions to the SWM must meet the criteria at Reference B. Requests for memorials to individual battles /units would no longer be supported by RSLWA for location within Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Written requests to RSLWA for memorials in Kings Park and Botanic Garden should be passed directly to the CEO of BGPA. Verbal requests to RSLWA for advice should be directed to the BGPA website and BGPA Memorials Policy that defines the requirements and application process for future memorial proponents. In due course the CEO of BGPA may seek RSLWA's comment and will provide his Board's decision. This Policy will assist the Board of BGPA in their decision-making.

SUMMARY

There are many alternative locations for community memorials, including other public open spaces managed by State and Local Governments. These options should be considered and investigated before any application is made to RSLWA or BGPA for a new memorial in Kings Park.

The BoD acknowledges that the BGPA will only approve applications for new memorials in exceptional circumstances. Unanimous BGPA Board support is required for all aspects of any proposed memorial.

It is appreciated that Associations/Units will be disappointed that RSLWA will not support their particular projects as from the date of this Policy. However, Kings Park and the BGPA have many roles. This iconic area of Perth and WA is approaching the stage of 'memorial saturation' and, respectfully, is not a specific Arboretum for commemoration and remembrance.

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RSLWA**