



## ANZAC MEMORIAL

HYDE PARK SYDNEY

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### **Anzac Memorial - Background**

- The Anzac Memorial celebrates the completion of its Centenary Extension on Saturday, 20 October 2018.
- The \$40 million capital redevelopment of the Memorial is the centrepiece of NSW's Centenary of Anzac commemorations. It also marks the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War.
- The official opening of the Memorial coincides with the Invictus Games, an initiative of His Royal Highness Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex, being held in Sydney from 20-27 October 2018.
- One hundred thousand people watched Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, open the Anzac Memorial in 1934, with the dedication: *'This Memorial was opened by a son of the King on 24th November 1934'*.
- This Centenary Extension realises architect Bruce Dellit's original concept for the 84-year-old Memorial, one of Australia's finest and most distinctive Art Deco structures.
- Now a contemporary interpretation of the water cascade on the southern side of the Memorial completes the original 1930's concept design.
- As the State's principal Memorial, the Centenary Extension enhances the Memorial's founding role to support and provide services for veterans and their families who have suffered loss while ensuring a public and a private place of contemplation, remembrance, education and reflection.
- As a Sydney landmark, the Anzac Memorial attracts nearly 200,000 visitors annually.
- Dellit had originally envisioned two water features running on a north-south axis to the Memorial, but due to the impact of the Great Depression only the Pool of Reflection north of the Memorial was ever built (through unemployment relief funds released to the City of Sydney).
- A walkway through the cascade allows Memorial visitors to enter the new Hall of Service, exhibition galleries and education facilities, providing a contemporary understanding of the history and impact of conflict.
- The Hall of Service, featuring artwork by Australian artist Fiona Hall, pays tribute to those across NSW who served in the Great War; featuring 1,701 soil samples from each NSW town, suburb and district given as a place of address by First World War enlistees.

- Soil has also been collected from 100 battle sites of significance to NSW military history - from 19th Century battles through to modern-day Australian peacekeeping missions to honour more than a century of service.
- For the first time since the Anzac Memorial opened its doors in 1934 visitors will be able to view the 20 iconic sculptures gracing the exterior of the Memorial at eye level. The 20 cast-granite Australian figures from the Great War have been reproduced for display in the Memorial's new Centenary Extension exhibition gallery.
- Eight glass urns, each hand-etched by Fiona Hall with an image of a different plant species associated with Australia's service in the First World War will be showcased at the entrances to the Hall of Service.
- The extension also houses the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW Library, a military history research collection assessed to be of national significance.
- The Anzac Memorial Centenary Project provided an opportunity to carry out important heritage conservation work within the Memorial including repairs to the Dome of Stars' ceiling and reproducing and replacing missing stars.
- The Dome is covered with approximately 120,000 stars - a symbolic representation of the men and women from New South Wales who embarked for overseas service during the Great War.
- Architectural firm Johnson Pilton Walker designed the Centenary Extension in collaboration with the NSW Government Architect.
- The collaborative endeavour was made possible through generous support from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments who each contributed 50 per cent to the capital works, and a \$3.4 million contribution to the Pool of Reflection by the City of Sydney; as well as strong involvement from local government, community groups and the general public.

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