

The Huntly War Memorial: Telling it to the generation following

The cenotaph which stands in the Domain outside the Huntly War Memorial Hall, now known as the Huntly War Memorial Community Centre, was originally erected as a tribute to local men who fought and lost their lives during World War One.

Huntly RSA members of the time were responsible for all aspects of the project from funding and design to its assembly. At 18 foot tall the obelisk was constructed from none other than white enamelled and glazed Huntly bricks. Wreaths and scrolls decorate the four sides, each with the words 'Tell it to the generation following'. The names of 57 Huntly soldiers who died while serving in WWI were embossed onto three marble plaques mounted onto the memorial.

The monument was initially located in Garden Place between Main Street and the river with the unveiling held in May 1927. The auspicious event was attended by his Excellency the Governor General Sir Charles Fergusson and an order of service was printed for the occasion by Huntly Press Print. In April the following year the monument saw it's first Anzac Day with the Huntly Press reporting that 'In a simple and impressive service the memory of Anzac Day was honoured... a large number being present at the War Memorial to pay their tribute of respect to our departed heroes.'

Some years later the Huntly War Memorial Hall was opened on 15 November 1958, which was built in remembrance of locals who lost lives during WWII. It was then decided that the cenotaph be relocated brick by brick to its current position. Subsequently a plaque naming the men who died in World War Two was added to the memorial, with yet another plaque recognising those who served and died in South Africa, Korea, Malaya/Borneo and Vietnam also attached at a later date.



Photograph caption: Huntly War Memorial in its original location by the river. Waikato Coalfields Museum photograph collection.