

Heidelberg Remembrance Garden



Heidelberg Repat Hospital Memorial Garden.jpg



Memorial Plaques at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.jpg



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Location

Banksia Street and Studley Road HEIDELBERG, BANYULE CITY

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 155592

Property Number

Veterans Description for Public

The Heidelberg Remembrance Garden commemorates an array of conflicts and personnel including memorial plaques for The Boer War, First World War heroes and Light Horse Regiment, Second World War Heroes and Infantry Battalions, an R.A.A.F. Propeller, Prisoners of War, Korea, Vietnam, Victoria Cross Winners, the Partially Blinded Soldiers' Association, War Widows, Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association, Tubercular Ex-Servicemen and Women and Australian Womens' contributions to Army and Navy services.

Other memorials in the Remembrance Garden include plaques dedicated to Private Bruce Kingsbury VC, and to his battalion, the 2/14th. The plaque lists the names of the 225 soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice in New Guinea on the Kokoda Track, Gona and the Markham Ramu Valley, in North Africa and the Middle East, and the Balikpapan in Borneo.

A Vietnam Memorial was unveiled on 17 August 1999. The Repat holds a special place for Vietnam veterans. The text of the memorial reads:

This memorial is the culmination of thoughts and ideas gathered through contact with Vietnam veterans and particularly those who have had care and treatment through the Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre and the previous Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

The rock is a permanent reminder of the patients who have been cared for and the staff who have given that care.

The white cross is a representation of those who shall stay young forever. The polished front represents the peace and tranquility that those who returned expected from the community. The uncut rough edges represent those who feel they never finished what could only be described as an extremely difficult task.

The reverse of the memorial represents the general feelings of those who returned and their experiences held in relation to negotiating acceptance that they served their country to the best of their ability.

On the reverse of the memorial, a poem is inscribed:

The Five Hundred Not Returned

By Len Curd, Service No. 39042, Unit 106 Field Battery, Nui Dat 1967-68

In earlier days of nationhood

Brave men fought on foreign shores

Then once again the call was made

For men to fight and die in scores.

Five Hundred men, young and brave

For their country went to war

Most not yet old enough to vote

Yet gave their life on foreign shore.

Five hundred men of this country great

For them as a nation we should weep

We sent them to die in a hopeless cause

Their sacred memory we must keep

Fifty thousand were sent to fight

To uphold the traditions their fathers earned

In Vietnam they did their fathers proud

Now let us mourn the Five Hundred Not Returned.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>