

THE MILLSTONE

KURRAJONG ~ COMLERoy HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is dedicated to researching, recording, preserving and promoting the history of the district. Covering the area west of the Hawkesbury River - North Richmond, Kurrajong, Berambing, Bilpin, Grose Vale, Bowen Mountain, Colo, Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Glossodia, Tennyson, Freemans Reach.

Brigadier General JOHN LAMROCK CB VD (1859-1935) A Hawkesbury ANZAC

John Lamrock was born on 25th December, 1859 at *Lemon Forest*, South Kurrajong, to Elizabeth (nee Skuthorpe) Lamrock and William Lamrock.

John was the fourth child and oldest son of the couple who had married at St Matthews Presbyterian Church Windsor, in 1850 and settled near the home of her father, Richard Skuthorpe.

After early schooling in the Hawkesbury, John attended Newington College in 1873 and 1874, transferring to Sydney Grammar School for a final three years, after which he returned to his parents South Kurrajong home.

The gentlemen of the Kurrajong had long held an interest in the noble sport of horse racing and on his return to the District John joined the Hawkesbury Race Club, also registering his own race horse stock brand. John remained a member all his life, being President at the time of his death, nearly 60 years later. Never one to restrict his interests, John Lamrock also later became Honorary Secretary of the Kurrajong Race Club and Secretary of Moorfield Race Club, after his move to Sydney.

It is worth noting that his uncle John Lamrock Snr had established a race course on the *Goldfinders* property at Wheeny Creek. John was also judge for meetings at Clarendon Race Course and Newcastle Jockey Club.

John Lamrock, Jnr. joined the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association and by 1885 was a nomination for office bearer, along with his father and uncle. He was soon elected.

On 1st October, 1885, John Lamrock and Mary Bowman Cameron were married at Richmond by Mary's father, the Rev. James Cameron. The couple settled in a new home, *Loreena*, tucked away behind *Lemon Forest* in South Kurrajong (now known as Grose Vale).

In 1890, John Lamrock, Jun. of *Loreena*, was appointed JP and Magistrate. He was recorded with 46 acres of land in South Kurrajong, being 20 acres of oranges, a few milking cows and farm horses.

COUNCILLOR AND PRESIDENT The Local Government (Shires) Act, 1905 brought into existence the Shire of Colo, Gazetted on 7 March 1906 and consisting of three Ridings with the initial appointment of a Temporary Council. The first elections were held in November 1906 and John Lamrock was elected Councillor for C Riding and the first President.

POLITICAL In May 1910, the Kurrajong Branch of the Liberal and Reform Association of NSW was formed with John Lamrock as President. Other office bearers included A.C. Anderson, J.E. McMahon, J. Dunston, H.E. Peck, G.A. Pitt, J. Sherwood. The Committee was Mrs. R. Mitchell, Mrs. J. Sherwood, Miss Skuthorpe, A. McKinnon, E.J. Ezzy, R. Skuthorpe, A.H. Dunston, H. Dunston, W.J. Dunston, R.E. Peck and W. Walker.

Cont. page 3



Colo Shire Council 1906 - Members elected from 3 Ridings.
Back Row L-R J. McMahon, A. Anderson, W. Gosper, H. Wilson, E. Bowd. **Front Row L-R** A. Adams, J. Lamrock, C. Icely (Shire Clerk)
John Lamrock is President and is seated centre front

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President's Report

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to another bumper edition of The Millstone. This report might look somewhat familiar as I covered a lot of it in the recent email Update. Your mission is to spot what I've changed :-)

2022 AGM

We held our AGM in September. Attendance was down, with the same number of apologies as attendees! The committee was returned with only slight changes. Steve Rawling stepped down due to health issues and we conferred the title of 'Editor Emeritus' on him, so he will be keeping across the running of the Society. We were also very pleased to welcome Valerie Holland back to the committee. A big thank you to all the outgoing committee for their work throughout the year. Glenn Townsend gave an update on his family history research.

Bilpin Flower Show Historic Display

In conjunction with the Bilpin Flower Show, K-CHS held a display of historic photos at the KH Bowlo. The weather wasn't wonderful and numbers were a bit lower than we would have liked, but it was good to see quite a lot of members pop in and we sold a few of our books etc. It became obvious that we need to invest in some roadside signage for any future such events.

Kurrajong Heights Wanderings Tour

A thank you to Airdrie and Suzanne for organising the Heights tour on Monday 24th October. Nine intrepid souls braved the rain. It was quite interesting. I for one had never visited *Uplands* before.

2022 Christmas Party

Bookings are now open for the Christmas Party. We are returning to the Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club and have a new chef who promises a full Christmas spread.

We will be welcoming Carol Liston as our guest speaker. Carol is a past president of RAHS and a very entertaining speaker. It is very important to book online if you are planning to attend. Saturday 10th December. That's only about 5 weeks away, so don't put off making a booking!

Australia Day 2023

Being creatures of habit, we will be gathering again at Bowen Mountain Park for our birthday breakfast event. I would normally say 'mark it on your calendar' but I don't have to because it is already marked on the K-CHS 2023 Calendar!

2023 Calendar

By now you should all have received your free copy of the K-CHS 2023 calendar. We have received a lot of positive comments. Thank you to Lesley, Pat and Jenny who put it together and for doing the local deliveries. We are very grateful for a generous benefactor who covered the cost of supplying the calendars to members for free.

If you would like additional copies for gifts etc., you can order them online. If you are local just tick the 'collect' box and we will arrange delivery. Limited stocks remain, so get in quick!

Next Year's Tours

We have sketched out plans for some exciting tours next year, including an overnight self-drive tour to Cowra, Canowindra, and Millthorpe. Thank you to Frank for running with this. See page 8 in this Millstone for further details. We are asking for feedback on preferences, e.g. mid week or weekend etc. and of course an indication of interest.

Email mailing preferences

In my latest update email I mentioned the email preference options we offer. If you would like more or less emails from the society, just contact Marguerite: secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

David Griffiths president@kurrajonghistory.org.au
Mob: 04098 646 899 Ph: 4567 8999

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secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

WELCOME to NEW MEMBER

The Society would like to welcome new member

Kelli-Jo Hoffman



A thank you to David & Jennifer Griffiths for a well organised and interesting photographic exhibition, displaying images of yesteryear gardens from the Kurrajong & surrounding district. All the photos were from the K-CHS Image Archive Collection.

Brigadier General JOHN LAMROCK CB VD (1859-1935)
A Hawkesbury ANZAC (cont. from page 1)

A foundation member of the Railway League, Lamrock remained an enthusiastic and active advocate although he began to transfer his interests to the City in around 1912 when he was appointed Secretary of Moorefield Race Club, a well-paid position. Lamrock's political ambitions did not extend to Parliament when he declined an invitation to stand for Hawkesbury in 1913.

Interestingly at the time Lamrock's address was recorded as *Belmont Buildings*, 15 Castlereagh St. This high-class building had recently been constructed by Philip Charley, of *Belmont*, Grose Vale, to the plans of architect John Matcham Tertius Pitt of *Sunnyside*, North Richmond.

MILITARY John's first contact with the Military occurred with the formation of *The Richmond Corps*, part of the 3rd Regiment NSW Voluntary Infantry in 1883. Joining sometime earlier he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in 1889 and later promoted to Captain.

In January 1910, Major John Lamrock took charge of the *Richmond Corps* on the retirement of Lieut-Col. C. S. Guest. In 1912, he was listed as Colonel John Lamrock of the 3rd Regiment.

On 12th April 1915, Lieutenant-colonel John Lamrock was appointed to command the 20th Battalion, 5th Brigade, which saw him heading for Gallipoli.



John Lamrock 2nd from right at the Liverpool Camp, shortly before embarking for Egypt 25th June 1915.

7th May 1915, saw a number of racing men presenting Colonel John Lamrock with a valuable charger to take to the front. With a farewell note, 'the gallant Colonel leaves on Saturday week'.

In fact, embarkation was 25th June, heading to Egypt for a short period of training before landing at Anzac Cove on 22nd August, 1915, where they were deployed in the defence of Russell's Top.

Russell's Top was part of a ridgeline that stretched from Anzac Cove to the Second Ridge along which the frontline was established. It was named after Brigadier Andrew Russell, commander of the NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade.



John Lamrock - Middle centre, Middle row. Image: AWM

Lamrock was later to express his pride in the men of the 20th who became known as the *Die-Hards*, being the last defenders of the final trenches at Russell's Top during the evacuation on 20th December 1915. Lamrock, himself had been detached to temporarily command the 5th Brigade Headquarters at Gallipoli, but had returned to supervise the withdrawal of the Brigade.

At midnight on the last day, General Lamrock left Russell's Top where the remnant of the 20th remained and went to Plugge's to superintend the withdrawal of the last 100 men, which moved off at intervals in three distinct parties, from each of the Battalions of the 5th Brigade.. General Lamrock left in the last barge.

On a launch which left after the barge, Generals Paton and Wisdom embarked, this being the last departed from Gallipoli.

A reward for his service came in the form of the Kings Birthday Military Award, 1916 as *Companion of the Bath*.

John Lamrock returned to Australia via England, disembarking on 27th July 1916 and accepted a posting as Commandant of Liverpool Army Camp, at which stage he was promoted to Brigadier General.

John Lamrock retained his connection to the Hawkesbury, in particular as Chairman of Hawkesbury Race Club and at the farm at South Kurrajong, although his main residence was close to the City while he continued as Secretary of Moorefield Race Club until his retirement in 1935 from ill-health.

John Lamrock died on Friday 19th July 1935, at *Braeside Private Hospital* Stanmore, where he had failed to recover from an operation following a long illness. He was 76 and survived by three offspring.

Deborah Hallam

BELMONT HOUSE, NAVUA STUD & the HOWIE Bros.

There is a little known link between the two and at one stage, adjoining properties in the North Richmond/Grose Wold area, *Belmont House* and *Navua Stud*. That link is the Howie family.

In March 1879, John and Archibald Black Howie, together with John's wife Agnes and their sister Mary, left their homes in Glasgow, Scotland and travelled to Plymouth, England. There they boarded the clipper *Samuel Plimsoll* and on 21 March 1879, commenced their voyage to the colony of NSW. On 12 June 1879 the ship docked at what was then the Quarantine Station at North Head, where John demonstrated his considerable stonemasonry skills by carving at least two inscriptions – still there today. The stories behind the numerous Quarantine Station rock inscriptions are told in *Stories from the Sandstone, quarantine inscriptions from Australia's immigrant past* (2016) by Peter Hobbins, Ursula Frederick and Anne Clark.

After some time in quarantine, the *Samuel Plimsoll* sailed into Sydney Harbour, berthing in Neutral Bay on 28 June. John and Archibald, both stonemasons, then began their Australian building careers. John started by building cottages in Dick St, Balmain (now all gone) and for a time during the 1880s, he taught masonry at Sydney Technical College (working also on the Pitt St colonnade of the General Post Office in Martin Place). Meanwhile, Archibald undertook a range of construction projects under the business name *Phillips and Howie*: these included the Victoria Barracks stables, the Shepherd's Hill gun battery at Newcastle, and the barracks for Submarine Miners at George's Head, Sydney.

In about 1891, John and Archibald formed the partnership of *Howie Bros* and it was this firm that won the contract to build *Belmont House* for Major Philip Charley. It is not known how it was that a couple of relatively unknown Scottish immigrants won that contract: presumably it was a combination of John's acclaimed reputation as a stonemason, combined with Archibald's experience as a builder of substantial public projects.

The foundation stone for Belmont House was laid on 29 February 1892, in the presence of members of the Charley family and friends, and John and Archibald. Under that stone a glass bottle was deposited: it contained a collection of coins, a newspaper, and a scroll-like document signed by those present for the occasion – it bears 61 signatures, including those of the builders. The scroll reads as follows:

Belmont Park Richmond February 29th 1892

This foundation stone was laid by Adeline May Charley aged 2 years and 2 months. Born at Strathfield N.S.W. daughter of Philip & Clara Charley, who are erecting this House & who are also the owners of Two Thousand acres of land around this House – Philip Charley born at Ballarat Victoria 1863.

Clara Charley in Adelaide S.A. 1866

This building alone cost £20,000 the ornamental trees around the paddocks were planted in 1891 (last year).

The Architect for this building is Mr Geo. M. J. Pitt of North Richmond N.S.W and the contractors Messrs A and J Howie of Balmain N.S.W. The following are signatures of relatives and friends who were present at the laying of this stone.

The glass bottle and its contents were unearthed on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of *Belmont House* North Richmond, March 2018, as a result of information about its existence provided by Archibald Howie's great grandson.

Locally, *Howie Bros* built *Lawson House* 60 Francis St, Richmond, for Mr C Lawson, on the completion of *Belmont House*.

The successful completion of *Belmont House* led to other major projects for Howie Bros, including Naval Stores at Garden Island and in 1896/97 and the Art Gallery of NSW.

From about the mid to late 1890s, John and Archibald Black Howie decided to go their separate ways: John formed *John Howie and Son*, whereas Archibald continued to trade under the name *Howie Bros* which, from about 1912, had become *Howie Brown and Moffatt*. After Mr Brown retired from the firm in 1915, the firm was known as *Howie Moffat*, and in March 1916, *Howie Moffat and Co Limited* was incorporated.

Archibald Black Howie's son (the later Sir Archibald, my grandfather, who had been born in Scotland in 1879) joined the family business as a carpenter's apprentice in 1895. He took over control when his father died in 1923 and retained control of *Howie Moffat* until his death in 1943.

Following the success of *Belmont House*, my grandfather Archibald continued to do well, constructing many significant buildings: these include the Sydney City Vegetable Markets (1903/04); Bank of NSW, cnr Miller and Mount Sts, North Sydney (1905/06); the original Mitchell Library (1906/08); the females' prison at Long Bay Gaol (1908/09); various stands and buildings at Randwick Racecourse (1912/13, 1917 and 1920); additions to the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba (1912/13 and 1927); former Pomeroy House, 14-16 York St, Sydney (1914/15); additions to the Hotel Australia, Castle-reagh St, Sydney (1920/21); hotels at Woolloomooloo (1920/22).

The success continued into the 1920s & 30s. Warwick Farm Racecourse, various stands and buildings (1923/25); Bank of NSW head office, 341 George St, Sydney (1926/32); Farmer Bros building cnr George and Market Sts, Sydney (1927/30); Hastings Deering building, William St, Sydney (1937/38); Shell House (later the Menzies Hotel completed 1938); and the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board building at 339-341 Pitt St (1938/39) now the Primus Hotel.

Grandfather Archibald Jnr. had an impressive career, among other things, he served as President of the Master Builders' Association of NSW (1927). In 1928 he was appointed to the Council of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, holding the office of President 1938/40. Chairman of Directors, Port Jackson and Manly Steamship Company (1932/43).

Archibald Jnr. was also a Local Government Councillor 1934/1941, having been elected a Sydney City alderman in 1934 and then Lord Mayor of Sydney (1936/37). He served as a member of the NSW Legislative Council (1934/43). He was President of the Australian Jersey Herd Society (from 1936); Fellow of the Senate of the University of Sydney (1939/43); and President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (1941/43). He was knighted in 1938.

Cont. page 5

Belmont House, Navua Stud, Howie Bros cont.

Archibald Howie Jrn.
When he was the Lord
Mayor of Sydney
1936-1937.

In about August 1928 Grandfather Archibald (through his company, *Navua Limited*) bought some 130 acres in Grose Wold on which he began the development of what became *Navua Stud Farm*. In time, the total area of the farm was enlarged to some 330 acres, having a common boundary to the north with *Belmont Park*.

The first manager of *Navua* for Sir Archibald was Mr Trevor Brown, described at the time as one of the best-known stud masters in the State. In 1934 Brown resigned and was replaced by Mr Ken Armstrong, who remained in that position until 1946.

Sir Archibald's great interest was the Jersey breed of cattle: his first importations, from the Isle of Jersey, were 1 bull and 3 heifers (3 others had died en route) in February 1929. In early 1934 another 23 Jerseys were shipped from Jersey Isle to *Navua*. By 1934 there was a herd of about 80 Jersey cattle.

Sir Archibald also successfully bred Berkshire pigs and Shetland ponies – the latter principally to keep the grass down! He also tried his hand at Corriedale sheep, but soon discovered that near-coastal land did not suit them.

Contemporaneous descriptions paint *Navua* in glowing terms. For example, the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* of 13 February 1931, had this to say:

Established for less than two years, extensive improvements make the place a triumph of up-to-date and modern equipment, replete with every convenience that money can purchase. The homestead, surrounded by well-kept lawns and glorious roses, is a picture in itself, while a broad avenue with concrete kerb and cattle pens is flanked with one of the best collections of shrubs and native dwarf trees to be found in the State.

The pig-pens and cattle yards are built on the most up-to-date, sanitary lines, with every modern improvement conceivable for the observance of absolute cleanliness.

Model dairy premises, nearly completed, excel anything of the kind, either Government or private, ever inspected by us, and the milk room in particular should on completion, represent the ideal dairyman's dream.

Navua was also recognised as an arboretum under the Department of Agriculture for the propagation and growing of native and commercial flora.

Perhaps unsurprisingly for a builder, the fencing for *Navua* comprised concrete fence posts and rabbit-proof wire. Many of those concrete posts remain in place today, as do the six silos that were built to store grain.

An indication of Sir Archibald's approach to all his business dealings can be gleaned from the *Navua* Guarantee, as it appears in the Farm's stud book: *The Navua guarantee is so comprehensive that the underlying principle involved is to make every sale produce a satisfied customer. This is the best advertisement, and the greatest asset that any breeding establishment can possess ...for the mutual benefit of both parties, and also for the advancement and welfare of the Jersey breed.*

Navua stock was sold to buyers from around Australia and overseas including, in 1935, to the Emperor of Japan, and to buyers in Shanghai, China.

The *Navua* visitor's book for the period December 1929 to July 1941 records visitors from around the country as well as Ceylon (today's Sri Lanka), South Africa, Canada, New Zealand, England, Belgium, Denmark, the United States, China, Japan, India, Fiji, Norway and the Philippines, and on 2 occasions, the Governor of NSW, Lord Wakehurst.

Following Sir Archibald's death on 26 October 1943 at his Hunters Hill home *Clifton*, *Navua* was bought from the estate by Stanley Crick, a fellow alderman on the City Council.

In 1947 Crick decided to sell the entire Jersey herd and thereafter *Navua* was a horse stud. Crick sold *Navua* in 1951.

Article by Adrian Howie (Grandson)



The banks of the Grose River at Navua Reserve, Grose Wold. The reserve was created from the property known as *Navua Farm* which was purchased by *Navua Limited* in April 1928-1947 and owned by Archibald Howie Jrn. Building contractor and politician, Howie was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1879, the son of Archibald Howie Snr. and Janet Ferguson. Yarramundi Reserve is on the far side of the river.

Note of interest: RMS, HCC and Redbank Communities are working together to develop a high level bridge crossing over the Grose River, connecting Grose River Road with Springwood Road at Yarramundi. It is proposed that the bridge would be above the 1 in 100 chance per year flood level which would provide another option for access during a flood and or fire event. <https://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/grose-river-bridge-yarramundi>

K-CHS Excursion**Historic Wanderings Kurrajong Heights - 24th October 2022**

Uplands front door and in the garden at *Uplands*. Pat, Lesley Margaret (owner) and Airdrie. A history of *Uplands* can be read in the March-April 2021 The Millstone Newsletter.



On the terrace in the beautifully landscaped garden at *The Ridge*. The house was built in the mid 1880s by William Wark and is now owned and stunningly maintained by Stephen Fitzgerald. For a history of the property see The Millstone May-June 2016



Above: Along the drive to *Fernmount* House. A history of the property and successive owners can be found in the July-Aug & Sept-Oct 2016 Millstone newsletters, including the story of owner William Scott G'ment Astronomer 1800s.



St David's Church 1867 - K-CHS member Helen Webster presented a well researched history of the church, assisted by Don Webster whose great grandfather Charles Pitman was involved in the stone cutting and building. The small excursion group also visited the gravesites. Helen has been invited to speak at a K-CHS General Meeting in 2023.

Ray White Kurrajong

For all of your property needs be sure to get in touch with the team at
Ray White Kurrajong
 4573 1000 or kurrajong.nsw@raywhite.com

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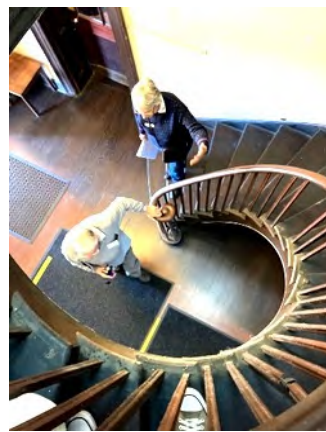
From THE ARCHIVES

The *Goldfinders Inn*, next to Little Wheeny Creek where it crosses Old Bells Line of Road, was built by *John Lamrock* in about 1851 to accommodate travellers going to the goldfields at Hill End. It became known as the *Lamrock Inn* and was also the original Post Office in Kurrajong. Later it became a general store, as shown in this photo. It is now a beautifully restored private residence. Image Archives 010605



K-CHS Historic Hotel excursion 22 August 2022

Image 1 Morning Tea Inside the recently renovated Royal Hotel Richmond. **Image 2** North Richmond Hotel verandah. The original hotel opened in 1833 as The Woolpack Inn, demolished in the 1960s. The current hotel was built in 1933 and the front façade covered in 1970. It is currently being restored to its 1933 appearance. **Image 3** Cedar Staircase - Historic Macquarie Arms Hotel Thompson Square, Windsor



K-CHS 2023 Heritage Calendar

This attractive calendar featuring images from our archive is now available. One copy is being provided free to members. There are additional copies available for sale

One page per calendar month

Price: \$15 Postage: \$4

Visit website to order extra copies while available

<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

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Dates for Your DIARY



Members & Friends are invited to book for the

K-CHS 2022 CHRISTMAS GATHERING 5pm Saturday 10th December

Venue: Kurrajong Heights Bowling Club
1530 Bells Line of Road

Guest speaker: Assoc. Professor Carol Liston

Fully catered 2 course Christmas dinner with treats
(Drinks available from the club bar at own expense)

RSVP: Bookings & pre-payment essential at
<https://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au>

Members \$45.00 Friends \$50.00

Enquiries: David Griffiths 4567 8999

Email: president@kurrajonghistory.org.au

CENTRAL WEST TOUR with Frank Holland

The K-CHS Committee is planning a tour to Canowindra via Orange to Cowra, Carcoar & Millthorpe.

Experience yesteryear historic villages and also visit the *Age of Fishes* Museum, with fossils from millions of years ago.



Each of these towns have much history, with places of interest. At this stage we are considering self-drive, with car pooling and paid share. Depending on numbers and the level of interest, a small bus is a possibility in lieu of self-drive.

Overnight accommodation at Cowra RSL is \$169 for a Queen Room. We intend organising an evening dinner, presentation and guest speaker with the Cowra Historical Society.

The tour is proposed for early May 2023. Please contact Frank for mid-week / weekend tour preference and further itinerary details:

frank.holland2@optusnet.com



Age of Fishes Museum in the historic town of Canowindra, situated along the Belubula River between Orange and Cowra.



K-CHS 22nd Annual AUSTRALIA DAY Breakfast All Welcome

9am Thursday 26th January 2023, once again at
Bowen Mountain Hut & Park

BYO Breakfast to cook on the barbecue
Further details will be in the Jan/Feb 2023
Millstone Newsletter

Note: A thank you to Carolynne Cooper for restoring and improving the Colo Shire Council (1906) photo, page 1

Suzanne Smith Millstone Editor

Places of Pride

Every town - Every memorial

The National Register of War Memorials is an initiative of the AWM to record the location and a photo of every War Memorial across the country in every town. The online site includes maps, educational resources, video's and news. Memorials erected across Australia after WW1, were pivotal in allowing communities and families to grieve and pay their respects. They provided a way for towns to express their loss through remembrance and the sacrifice of their local servicemen and women. Continued to this day with memorials across Australia bearing testament to conflicts and peacekeeping operations from the Boer War to Afghanistan.

Visit: <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au>.

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