

Bassendean War Memorial

In 1920, the West Guildford community was busy finalizing plans for a memorial for local soldiers who served in the Great War. The obelisk eventually chosen, created and unveiled, is what we still have today on the B.I.C. Reserve in Bassendean. Not all soldiers who were eligible to have their name on the Bassendean War Memorial had their names inscribed, for a variety of reasons. A selected time line of the community's contributions towards the creation of the West Guildford Soldiers' Memorial is provided below and linked to newspaper articles provided by the National Library of Australia. The timeline of the monument includes other local events to give context.



The Swan Express 30 July 1920: 5.

[WEST GUILDFORD WAR MEMORIAL](#)

1915

soldiers killed (who are listed on the memorial)

- [Ben Bailey](#)
- [Ernest Butt](#)
- [Frederick Bowra](#)

1915 (July) Ben Bailey's [MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. MARKS, WEST GUILDFORD.](#)

1916

1916 (February) Pt Wilson enlist [Who's Who in Khaki.](#)

1916 (July) Mr Clay granted a leave of absence from the West Guildford Road Board [Blackboy Periscopes.](#)

1916 (October) Enlistment advertisement for West Guildford [Advertising](#)

soldiers killed (who are listed on the memorial)

- [George Honey](#)
- [Frank Potter](#)
- [Alfred Baxter](#)
- [Ernest Pirani](#)
- [Frederick Young](#)
- [Joseph Frobisher](#)
- [Herbert Cruttenden](#)
- [George McIntosh](#)
- [Frank Beck](#)
- [James Gemmell](#)
- [Irvine Pryde](#)
- [Stanley Short](#)
- [Francis Young](#)
- [Thomas Hay](#)
- [Ben Poutney](#)

1917

1917 (March) Ernest Wicks receives Military Medal [PERSONAL](#)

soldiers killed (who are listed on the memorial)

- [John Short](#)
- [Maurice Barry](#)
- [Arthur Gledhill](#)
- [Walter Wallace](#)

- [Frank Heald](#)
- [GeorgeDobson](#)
- [Robert McWhirter](#)
- [John Harman](#)
- [Joseph Elliott](#)
- [James Chambers](#)

1917 (March) [RECRUITING RALLY AT WEST GUILDFORD. AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING. HIGHLY INTERESTING SPEECHES.](#)

1917 (June) [EMPIRE DAY AT WEST GUILDFORD.](#)

The following names are on the West Guildford School Honor Board:—
 Lieut. R. E. Potts, Ptes. B. Bailey, W. Bailey, J. Bailey, J. Murray, W. Wicks, E. Wicks, F. Young, J. Bull, J. Wilson, S. Smith, Gunner C. Hyland, Pte. J. Christie, D iver R. Liddle, Sergt. E. McSwain, Ptes. F. Bright, G. Ticehurst, J. Farley, G. Walsh, S. Walsh, H. Fyfe, G. Dixon, J. Harman, L. Boothey, F. Boothey.

If any persons know of soldiers who have previously attended this school the head teacher would be grateful to hear of them, with address and number.

1917 (July) [WELCOME TO RETURNING SOLDIERS. AT WEST GUILDFORD.](#)

1917 (July) [WEST GUILDFORD VOLUNTEERS. SEND OFF BY RESIDENTS.](#)

1917 (November) Mr C. R. Wicks chaired a meeting for a suitable roll of honor to “signalize appreciation of the action of the men who have enlisted in the district.” | [GENERAL NEWS.](#)

1918

soldiers killed (who are listed on the memorial)

- [Thomas Lockhart](#)
- [Charles Carter](#)
- [William Wilson](#)
- [John Christie](#)

1918 (22 May) The honor roll jumble sale fundraising meeting [GENERAL NEWS.](#)

1918 (27 September) Social and dance fundraiser [GENERAL NEWS.](#)

1918 (8 November) successful fundraising effort for the honour roll [WEST GUILDFORD PICTURES.](#)

1918 (December) Beautiful weather conditions and a large attendance of children and parents marked the children’s gathering held on the recreation ground, West Guildford. [CHILDREN’S TREAT AT WEST GUILDFORD. CELEBRATING SIGNING OF ARMISTICE.](#)

1919

1919 [PRIVATE J. J. HARMAN](#). Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harman, West Guildford. Enlisted in 1915. Served on Gallipoli and in France, where he was killed at Polygon Wood.

1919 (21 March) Honor roll committee fundraising exceeds 109 pounds [GENERAL NEWS](#).

1919 (8 May) West Guildford Red Cross Committee meeting held [GENERAL NEWS](#).

1920

1920 (March) Soldiers welcomed home by Red Cross [WEST GUILDFORD RETURNED SOLDIERS. WELCOMED HOME BY FED CROSS. AN ENJOYABLE GATHERING](#).

1920 (2 April) Funds amounting to 22 pounds were received from the Guildford Regatta [GENERAL NEWS](#).

1920 (23 April) [WEST GUILDFORD SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL. FINALISING THE PROJECT](#).

1920 (April) The returned soldiers of the Midland and Districts Branch opened their appeal at West Guildford with a euchre party and dance [WEST GUILDFORD](#).

1920 (30 April) A combined church service held with three churches and a collection for honor roll taken [WEST GUILDFORD](#).

1920 (21 May) The community formed a committee and had ideas such as a sun dial or clock as a memorial. [WEST GUILDFORD HONOR ROLL. MONUMENT TO BE RAISED](#).

1920 (June) "Mr. Pickering suggested that 'the board be empowered to purchase a corner block with a view to erecting the monument thereof. Mr Drysdale and Mr Turner both spoke in favor of the corner block site, the object was to place the memorial on a site where it would be plainly visible. "[WEST GUILDFORD RATEPAYERS' MEETING. MEMORIAL MONUMENT](#)."

1920 (June) Memorial Monument Committee meeting held [WEST GUILDFORD MEMORIAL MONUMENT. COMMITTEE MEETING](#).

"The monument would be built of granite on a concrete foundation, and the cost would be £230. An inscription plate would be placed on the front stating the memorial was erected by the citizens of West Guildford to commemorate the Great War 1914-18..."

The situation of the monument is on the corner of the main road and Wilson street, and on the same side as the public hall (between the hall and the station), and is so situated that it can never be obscured by any buildings that may be erected in years to come. A "busy bee" is at work carting sand and levelling the ground around the monument on each Saturday afternoon as long as required.

The work of constructing the monument is in the hands of two returned soldiers, Messrs. Wales and Gillies, the material for same being Mahogany Creek granite.

1920 (July) A parcel of land was selected on the corner of Wilson Street and Perth Road, near the prominent Town Hall and in the town centre.

[WEST GUILDFORD SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL. WORKING BEE ON SATURDAY.](#)

1920 (July) "Busy bee" held to level up the site [WEST GUILDFORD SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL](#)

1920 (July) Protest letter regarding site chosen [The West Guildford Memorial To the Editor of "The Australian."](#)

The West Guildford Memorial

To the Editor of "The Australian."

Sir,—May I protest against the site for the proposed obelisk, as I, with others, think it most unsuitable. The background is most unsightly, and probably in the near future the blocks around will be built on, perhaps by factories, etc., and it will be out of sight and forgotten. We want it where we can beautify the surroundings, and on each anniversary of our men's sacrifice place a token of our love and remembrance. Could any mother or wife do that on the present site? I hope the gentlemen who propose to place it there will give a little thought to the feelings of the mothers and wives of those men who made the great sacrifice.—I am, etc.,

PARENT.
Anstey-road, West Guildford, June 25.

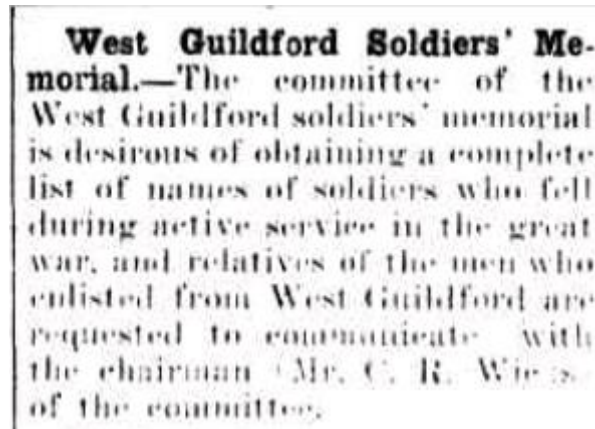
1920 (July) Petition by 27 relatives of West Guildford soldiers about the site selected for the proposed memorial. [WEST GUILDFORD SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL PROTEST AGAINST SELECTED SITE](#)

1920 (July) Messrs. Wales and Gillies, contractors, Returned Soldiers' Monumental Masons [WEST GUILDFORD WAR MEMORIAL](#)

1920 (September) The ladies' committee of the West Guildford Fallen Soldiers' Memorial planned a big jumble fair to be held to fundraise. [WEST GUILDFORD FALLEN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL.](#)

1920 (September) A fundraising concert was held, with vocal and instrumentals by the West Guildford Orchestral Society, for the Faller Soldiers' obelisk to be erected. [SACRED CONCERT AT WEST GUILDFORD.](#)

1920 (22 October) West Guildford Soldiers' Memorial Committee Chairman, Mr C. R. Wicks request names for a complete list of soldiers who fell during active service. [GENERAL NEWS. Damaging Council Property.—](#)

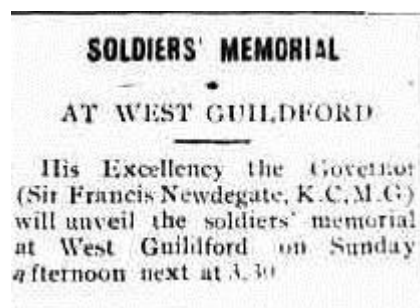


West Guildford Soldiers' Memorial.—The committee of the West Guildford soldiers' memorial is desirous of obtaining a complete list of names of soldiers who fell during active service in the great war, and relatives of the men who enlisted from West Guildford are requested to communicate with the chairman (Mr. C. R. Wicks) of the committee.

1920 (10 November) The West Guildford Rifle Clubs' honor roll was unveiled by the Premier, Mr Mitchell [WEST GUILDFORD RIFLE CLUB CONCERT. UNVEILING OF HONOR ROLL.](#) And [WEST GUILDFORD RIFLE CLUB HONOR -ROLL. THE PREMIER ON SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.](#)

1920 (10 December) Water supply and reserve gazetted. [WEST GUILDFORD ROAD BOARD.](#)

1920 (December) Invitation to attend the Soldiers' Memorial unveiling [SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL AT WEST GUILDFORD](#)

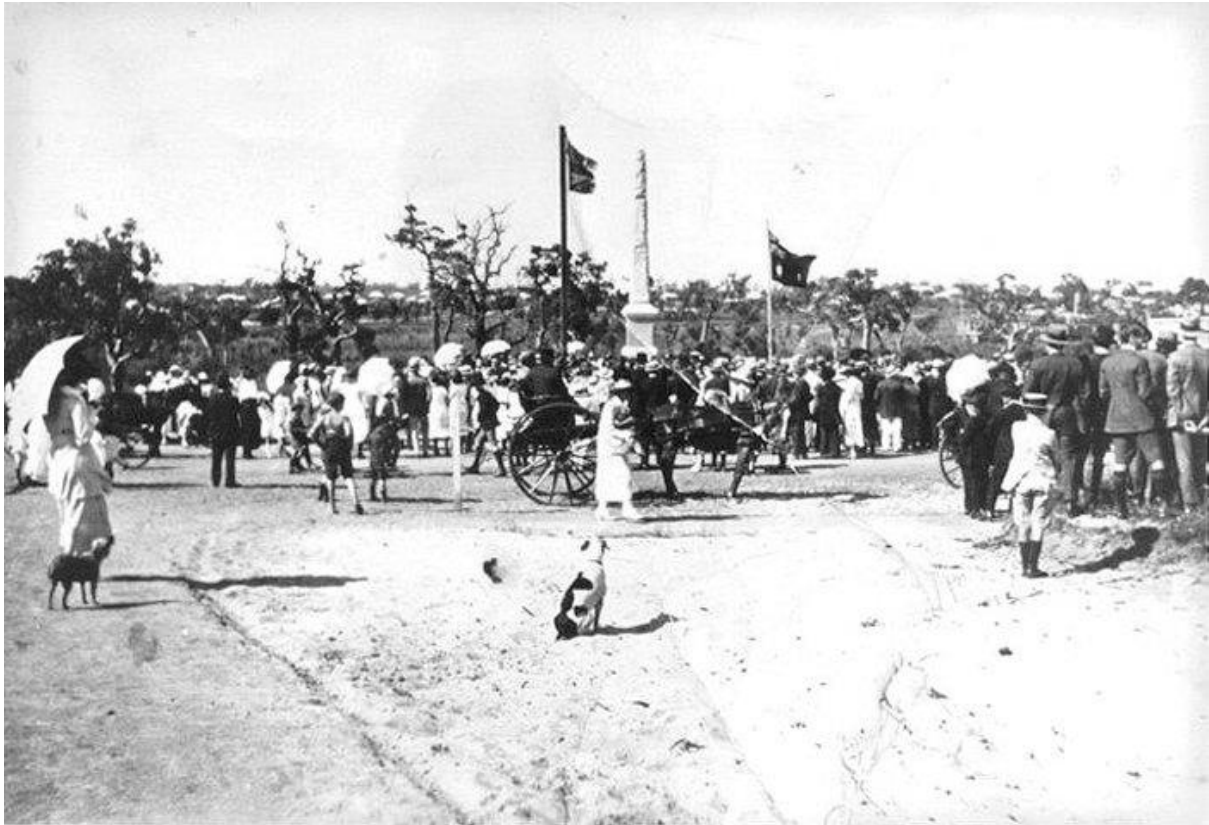


SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL
AT WEST GUILDFORD

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Francis Newdegate, K.C., M.C.) will unveil the soldiers' memorial at West Guildford on Sunday afternoon next at 3.30

Swan Express 10 December 1920, p. 2

1920 (12 December) unveiled on corner of Wilson Street and Perth Road. [WEST GUILDFORD SOLDIERS. UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL.](#) And [WEST GUILDFORD SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL. UNVEILED BY THE GOVERNOR.](#)



1920 (24 December) Water supply and reserve gazetted. [WEST GUILDFORD ROAD BOARD.](#)

1921 (30 January) Wales and Gillies [Soldiers and Sailors CURRENT TOPICS OF GENERAL INTEREST](#)

Returned soldiers are setting up in business in almost every kind. **Wales and Gillies**, erstwhile 15th Co. Engineers, however, seem to have struck something that others have not embarked upon—monumental sculptors and general masons. They were responsible for the manufacture of the West Guildford Soldiers' Memorial, recently unveiled by the Governor, who, by the way, congratulated the firm on the work.

1920 (2 January) RSA annual meeting [RETURNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION WEST GUILDFORD.](#)

RETURNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION

WEST GUILDFORD.

The annual meeting of the West Guildford branch is to be held on Wednesday next, January 7, at 8 p.m., when the election of officers will take place. It is particularly desired that every member of the branch will make an effort to be present.

1920 (January) [WEST GUILDFORD BRANCH R.S.A. REPORT FOR HALF YEAR.](#)

1921 (25 April) Anzac Day [WEST GUILDFORD.](#)