

NAME: Coromandel Valley War Memorial, Main Road, COROMANDEL VALLEY

CURRENT USE: War memorial
FORMER USE: War memorial
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: 1921, removed to current site in 2000

LOCATION: 442B Main Road, COROMANDEL VALLEY
LAND DESCRIPTION: CT 5681/79, Hundred of Noarlunga

OWNER: City of Onkaparinga

RECOMMENDATION: Local Heritage Place



Coromandel Valley War Memorial, Main Road, Coromandel Valley (GGA, 2021)

NAME: Coromandel Valley War Memorial, Main Road, COROMANDEL VALLEY

DESCRIPTION:

C.1921 war memorial monument constructed of Angaston marble, surrounded by semi circular freestone masonry low walls with extensive paving and garden beds arranged in a radial, circular manner around monument. C.2000 freestone rock with steel plaque to immediate north-north west. Semi-circular freestone masonry wall to north-north east of c.1921 monument, with steel plaque honour roll and small concrete plinth with steel plaque. Nine small concrete plinths to immediate north-north west of c.1921 monument with steel plaques commemorating nine individuals who died during WWI

It is recommended that the dwelling at the Coromandel Valley War Memorial, 442B Main Road, Coromandel Valley be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The Coromandel Valley War Memorial of Main Road, Coromandel Valley is of significance as a commemorative site that recognises and celebrates the contributions of Coromandel Valley's citizens to various conflicts in world history in the late 19th and 20th centuries; in particular the events of the First World War. The 1921 monument and surrounding memorial plinths effectively represent the effects of these conflicts upon the local population, while demonstrating a strong local community spirit. The 1921 monument is also strongly associated with the War Memorial inauguration events of May 28th, 1921, a significant and well-documented event in the history of Coromandel Valley.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being the township of Coromandel Valley's memorial to its local citizens who fell during the First World War; a significant world event that substantially impacted the lives of local citizens both during and after the event.

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; the Coromandel Valley War Memorial provides tangible evidence of the effects of the First World War upon this tightly-knitted community during the early 20th century. The deaths of nine young men of the district, then comprising approximately 50 households, profoundly affected the community who are documented as having personally raised substantial funds for the War Memorial's construction. The Memorial therefore provides an effective symbol of both the serious ramifications of the First World War on the lives of local citizens during and after the conflict as well as a tangible expression of strong community spirit at that time.

c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents; the Coromandel Valley War Memorial both identifies and commemorates the contributions of local citizens to various conflicts

of the late 19th and 20th centuries, including the First World War, Second World War and other significant world events.

e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; the 1921 WWI monument being strongly associated with its inauguration occurring on May 28th, 1921; a significant and well-documented event in the history of Coromandel Valley.

f) it is a notable landmark in the area; having been moved to its present site in 2000, the 1921 monument and surrounding landscaped gardens and paving present as a well-sited and significant landmark in the local district.

RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.7 Remembering past generations and the fallen

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Coromandel Valley War Memorial, Main Road, Coromandel Valley does not appear to have been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

Substantial information relating to the history and heritage significance of the Coromandel Valley War Memorial has been historically available, including a detailed history provided in the National Trust of SA's 'Coromandel Valley: its history trails and tales' document.

The National Trust's history effectively places the Coromandel Valley War Memorial within the context of the district's strongly connected local community in the early 20th century; a community of approximately 50 households with frequent inter-marriage; the geographical valley layout encouraged close social bonds between community members. Of 32 local young men who enlisted in the First World War, only 23 returned, nine dying in action and from injuries and/or disease. The loss of these young men greatly impacted this small, tightly-knitted community, both during and immediately after the First World War. Public discussions for the erection of a local war memorial began in 1919, when local memorial committee was formed. By March 1920 the committee recommended that Coromandel Valley should be its own war memorial.

A detailed description of the inauguration of the new War Memorial on May 28th 1921 was provided in newspapers of the period, proceeding as follows:

In the presence of a large gathering on Saturday afternoon (May 28th, 1921), Brig.-Gen. Leane, C.B., C. M. G., D. S. O., unveiled a monument erected by the people of Coromandel Valley to the memory of the men of the district who had fought in the war. The monument stands in a conspicuous position on the Government Reserve at the valley. The area will also carry trees, and already several have been planted by relatives or representatives of those who gave up their lives. At the foot of each tree is a marble tablet bearing the warrior's name. The monument consists of an obelisk 9 ft. in height. It is constructed of Angaston marble. On the front scroll are the names of the nine men who were killed. On the north and south sides are inscribed the names of the returned men. The back of the monument has the inscription ; "Coromandel Valley's token of love and honour to the men who represented us in the great war, 1914-1919."

Brig.-Gen. Leane was greeted by a guard of honour, consisting of local returned soldiers. The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. G. R. Laffer) was also present. Mr. J. Weymouth (Chairman

of the committee) said that the men who went to the fields were the descendants of early pioneers, who had struggled for the prosperity of this country. The secretary (Mr. G. W. Summers) stated that although there were only 50 houses in Coromandel Valley, the contributions had amounted to nearly 268 pounds. In all 32 names were on the monument but that did not represent the whole of the enlistments of the district. One family had given four sons, and another household three sons. He eulogised the work of the local Red Cross, which had done much to assist in raising the money for the monument.

Brig.-Gen. Leane said that the people of the district had reason to be proud of the memorial, and had each part of the Empire responded in a similar way to Coromandel Valley the result would have been even better than it had been. He had fought with some of the men from the Valley, and he remembered very clearly the bravery of one of them in particular (Lieut. Sheldon) who died nobly doing his duty. To the parents and loved ones of those who had not returned he offered his deepest sympathies. They had died doing their duty. That was the greatest thing that could be said of them. Coromandel Valley had erected a splendid monument.

Messrs. H Jacobs (representing the Clarendon District Council), W. L. Summers (Blackwood Memorial Committee), and E. Strange (Cherry Gardens Memorial Committee) also spoke. During the afternoon selections were rendered by the Blackwood Brass Band and the Coromandel Valley School Band.

The Coromandel Valley Memorial Committee consisted of Messrs. J. Weymouth (Chairman), W. G. Summers (secretary), O. S. Jones, A. W. Jones, R. Cook, R. Tapley, T. James and R. Watchman.

(extracted from 'Coromandel Valley Soldiers: A Monument Unveiled, The Register, Mon 30 May 1921, p.3.)

In 2000, the 1921 monument was restored and removed to a new location approximately 100 metres north of its original site. It is presumed that this site was deemed appropriate for a larger memorial gardens commemorating the subsequent wartime contributions of Coromandel Valley citizens, in addition to a more shelter location away from the increasingly-heavy traffic of Main Road. A plaque embedded in a large rock located north-west of the 1921 monument provides a current site history:

These war memorial gardens were established by the City of Onkaparinga in 2000 and officially opened by Mayor Ray Gilbert on the 28th of May, 2000.

In 2000 the monument was restored and moved 100 metres north of its original location.

The monument was first established in its original location on the 28th May 1921. It is a memorial to the thirty-two soldiers who fought in World War 1, and particularly to the nine who died. So strong was the communal sense of loss, grief and pride at that time, that the fifty households of the Valley contributed £268, an average of £5 each – more than the average wage for two weeks – in order to build it.

These gardens have been developed in recognition of the significant contribution of those who fought and served in World War 1 and subsequent Wars.

An Honour Roll of local Coromandel Valley citizens who enlisted in WWII is attached to a small semi-circular masonry wall immediately east of the 1921 monument. An additional plaque also recognises Australia's war dead from the names recorded on the National Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, including the Boer War (1899-1902), Boxer Rebellion (1900-1901), World War One (1914-1918), World War Two (1939-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), the

Malayan Emergency (1950-1960), the Indonesian Confrontation (1963-1966) and the Vietnam War (1962-1973).

The National Trust of SA history records that memorial plinths had then (as of 2014) been recently relocated as part of a plan to redevelop the original war memorial site to include plinths at that site.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of the c.1921 monument are included in the listing. The form and materials of all memorial plaques (excluding attached plinths) are included in the listing. The form and materials of the c.2000 freestone rock plinth (excluding memorial plaque) north-north west of the 1921 monument is included in the listing. The semi-circular radial layout of paving and garden beds surrounding the 1921 monument, replicating the original 1921 memorial layout, is included in the listing though current fabric is not included in the listing.

While the form of all semi-circular elements, including freestone walls, is included in the listing, the materials of all semi-circular freestone masonry walls are not included in the listing. The form and materials of all concrete plinths (excluding attached commemorative plaques) are not considered to be of significance and are not included in the listing.

All later additions and alterations are not included in the listing.

REFERENCES:

'Coromandel Valley Soldiers: A Monument Unveiled', The Register, Mon 30 May 1921, p.3.

'Coromandel Valley Soldiers', Observer, Sat 4 Jun 1921, p.26.

National Trust of South Australia, Coromandel Valley & Districts Branch, 2014, Coromandel Valley: its history trails and tales, Freestyle Publications, Blackwood.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of Coromandel Valley War Memorial, 442B Main Road, Coromandel Valley (War Memorial site highlighted within red circle) (Planning SA SAPPa)



Site of Coromandel Valley War Memorial, 442B Main Road, Coromandel Valley; red circle indicates site of WWI plaque and associated semi-circular masonry wall; red central square indicates site of 1921 monument, red rectangle indicates site of history plaque imbedded in rock plinth (Planning SA SAPPa)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



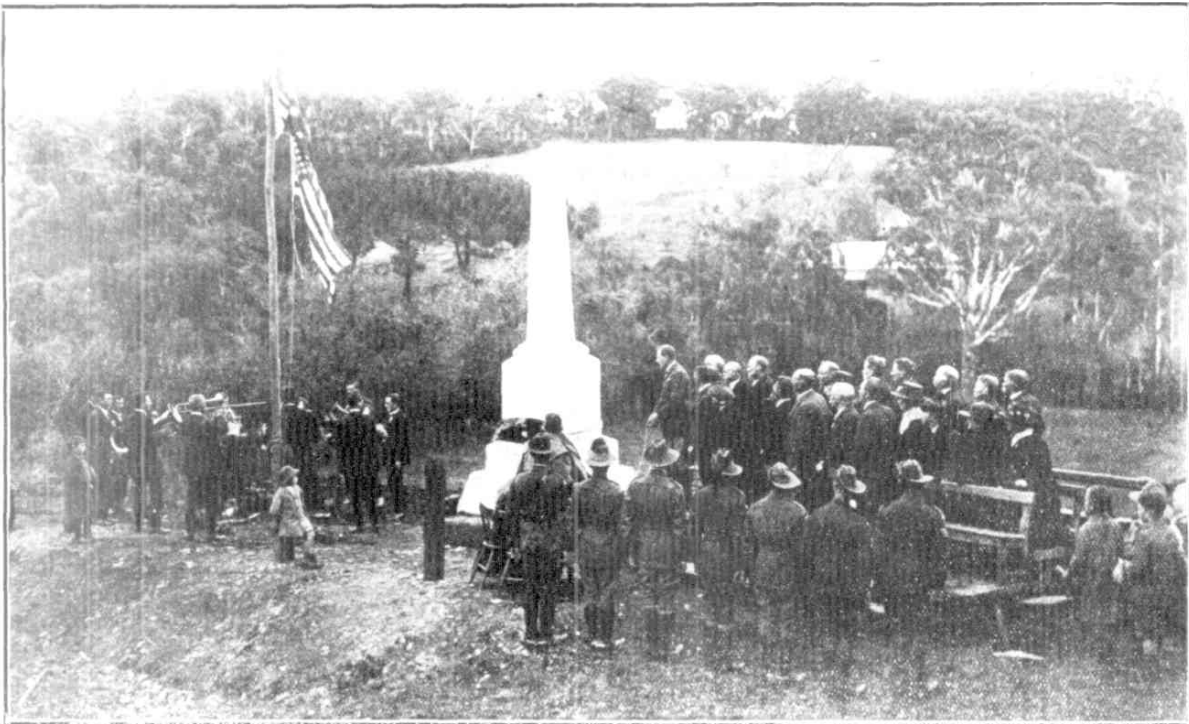
Dedication of Coromandel Valley War Memorial on its original site on May 28th, 1921 (SLSA PRG 280/1/26/214)



Dedication of Coromandel Valley War Memorial on its original site on May 28th, 1921 (SLSA PRG 280/1/31/113)



Dedication of Coromandel Valley War Memorial on its original site on May 28th, 1921 (SLSA PRG 280/1/27/41)



Brigadier General Leane unveiling the new war memorial monument on May 28th, 1921 (Coromandel Valley Soldiers, Observer, Sat 4 Jun 1921, p.26).

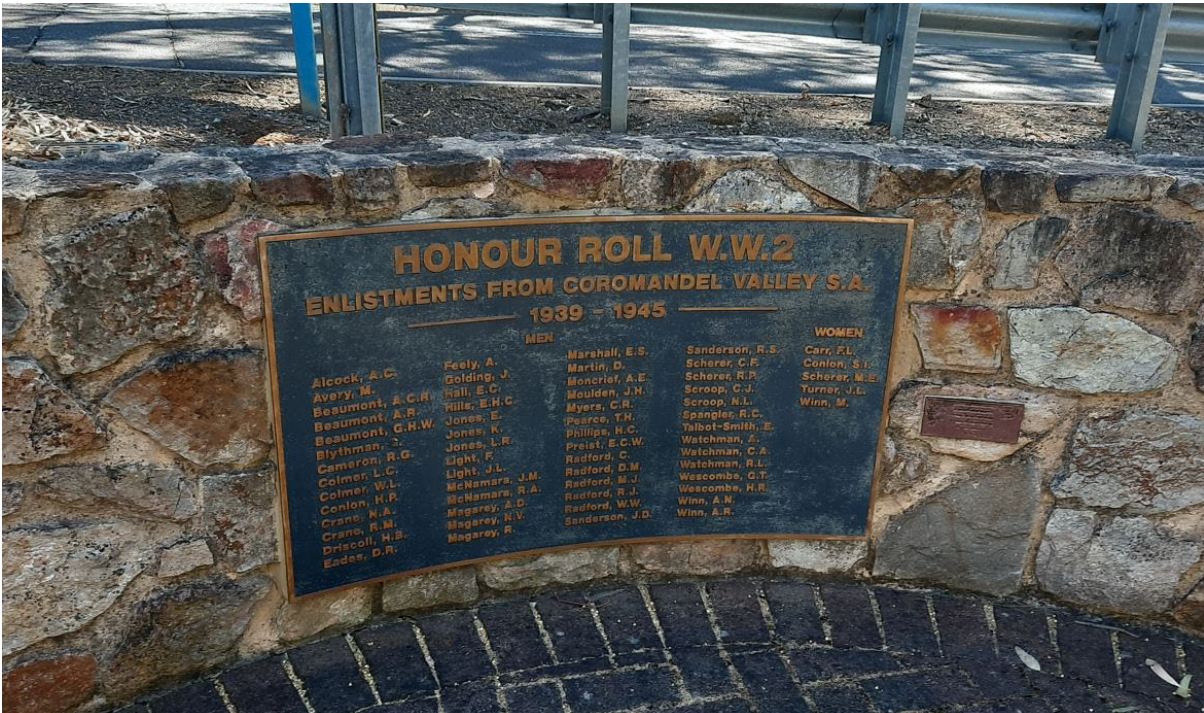


Members of the Memorial Committee on May 28th, 1921 (Coromandel Valley Soldiers, Observer, Sat 4 Jun 1921, p.26).

OTHER IMAGES:



Memorial plaques north-north west of 1921 monument, including rock memorial plinth and nine concrete memorial plinths (GGA, 2021).



Masonry retaining wall north-north east of 1921 monument with commemorative Honour Roll plaque (GGA, 2021).



Masonry semi-circular fencing with garden beds south of 1921 monument with war memorial bench (GGA, 2021).