

ANZAC PARK



HISTORY

Anzac Park (then known as Strand Park) was very popular with the settlers of Townsville as it was ideally situated on the beach and near the early commercial & port precincts. Initially the park's main focus was recreation and relaxation with The Band Stand (now more commonly known as the Rotunda) being built in 1913. The Band Stand was used to host open air concerts.

The Soldiers memorial (now more commonly known as the Cenotaph) was unveiled in April 1924 in memory of the soldiers who lost their lives in WW1. Formally known as Strand Park it was officially named Anzac Memorial Park in 1932 after it was suggested by the RSL. A memorial arch was built over the entrance gates prior to Anzac Day 1934. In 1959 Anzac park was chosen over West End Park and Hanran Park as the site for its centenary monument. Queensland Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, launched the Centenary Fountain in 1964 unveiling a commemorative plaque. This illuminated fountain shot out 147 jets of water between the hours of 3pm and 4pm each day, in the evenings its lighting system created a cycle of 68 colour changes. Almost everyone who grew up in Townsville during these decades remembers being taken to Anzac Park to see the multicoloured lights of the Centenary Fountain.



THE MEMORIALS

Anzac Park is located at the eastern end of the Strand Foreshore, at the frontage to the Breakwater marina. With the development of the Strand parklands, Anzac Park has become the formal and civic commemorative park in Townsville.

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance was constructed in 2005 after the Office of Australian War Graves approached the federal government for funding. The 'Gardens' consist of walls bearing plaques commemorating anyone who died in war or of a war related illness. There is a covered sitting area next to the gardens to allow people to sit and view the plaques.



Battle of the Coral Sea Memorial

Located to the west of the Garden of Remembrance is the Battle of the Coral Sea Memorial. Constructed in 1992 the memorial commemorates the role of all Australian and American servicemen involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Heroes Walk Memorial

This memorial was constructed in 1995 as part of the 50 year anniversary celebrations for the Allied victory in the Pacific War (VP50). The heroes walk memorial commemorates Australian Victoria Cross recipients. Set behind the Soldiers Memorial, the heroes walk memorial has signs containing biographic information, a photo and a map of the field of service for each 'hero'.

Porton Memorial

Unveiled during the VP60 celebrations, this memorial is there to honour the soldiers who died or were wounded during the assault landing at Porton, North Bougainville.

Cenotaph (Soldiers Memorial)

Built in 1923 the Soldiers War memorial was unveiled by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Matthew Nathan, in April 1924. On each of the memorials four faces is the name of Townsville's deceased soldiers who lost their lives in WW1. These days the Soldiers Memorial is more commonly known as the Cenotaph.

Anzac Way Memorial

The Anzac Way memorial consist of 4 pillars with a roof canopy, at the centre of the roof canopy there is an eternal flame. Each pillar depicts a plaque commemorating one of the services, Navy, Army, Airforce and Civilian. The memorial creates a covered entry way that leads to the Cenotaph area of the park. In the centre of the floor, under the eternal flame, there is a granite map of the world with numbered stainless steel plugs showing countries where Australians have served in conflicts. Adjacent to the map is an illuminated signboard where the numbered stainless steel plugs can be referenced.

FACILITIES

Picnic Settings x 5
 Drinking Fountains x 2
 Seats x 10
 Toilets - locked at nights
 Slide
 Spring Ride
 Swing Sets x 2
 Rotunda - The Rotunda is a popular location for wedding ceremonies.



Memorial Services are held throughout the year.

OPENING HOURS

7 days a week sunrise to sunset