

# Southport War Memorial and Honour Rolls

LHR0079

## Place details

Address/location	Southport Broadwater Parklands, Marine Parade, Southport
Title details	14SP170654
Principle period(s)	War Memorial 1922, Honour Rolls 1922 and 1953
City of Gold Coast division	6
Other known names	
Area for protection	War Memorial, including Honour Rolls on replica pillars, plus 5m heritage boundary
Place components	War Memorial and Honour Rolls, Honour Rolls on replica pillars.
Place category	Memorial
Context	War Memorial relocated (twice) and restored in 2010. Honour Rolls fixed to replica pillars in 2010.
Other listings	Queensland War Memorial Register
Register entry date	5 June 2018

## Statement of heritage significance

The Southport War Memorial and Honour Rolls is a place of local heritage significance for its historic importance, special association and class characteristics as evidenced by, but not exclusive to, the following statement of heritage significance, based on criteria (a), (d), (e), (g) and (h) of the Gold Coast Local Heritage Register.

### Criterion (a) Historic importance

The Southport War Memorial was unveiled in 1922 by the Honourable Mr A.G. Appel, M.L.A. The memorial was the result of a community desire to develop a place of remembrance and commemoration for those who had served during World War I and the community raised the necessary funds to construct the memorial. It contains the Southport and district Rolls of Honour for World War I and later, the names of World War II service personnel were added. The Southport War Memorial and Honour Rolls are important in demonstrating the era of widespread Australian patriotism and nationalism following World War I and provided an important symbolic association for the Southport community. The Digger style also demonstrates one of the popular styles of World War I memorial.

The Honour Rolls attached to the replica pillars were relocated from Anzac Park in 2010. As with the Rolls of Honour on the associated war memorial, these five marble tablets honour the service men and women of the Australian Defence Force who served and died during World War I and II. The gate pillars at the Southport War Memorial site are replicas of the Anzac Park Memorial Gate Pillars which remain extant at the park entrance.

Both sets of Honour Rolls are testament to sacrifice that was made by the local community in both world wars. Today these rolls provide a tangible link for today's community to these people.

The Southport War Memorial has been relocated twice since first being unveiled. An attached plaque marks the latest of these relocations.

### **Criterion (d) Class Characteristics**

The Southport War Memorial demonstrates the principal characteristics of a commemorative structure erected as an enduring record of a major historical event. This is achieved through the use of appropriate materials and design elements. As a digger statue it is representative of the most popular form of war memorial in Queensland.

The Honour Rolls are representative of this form of memorial; although approaches to the dedication can vary between Honour Rolls and the names included are community specific.

### **Criterion (e) Aesthetics**

The Southport War Memorial has aesthetic value for its high level of workmanship and design, symbolic meaning and as a visible and well-known Southport landmark. The memorial is a place of commemoration for the Southport community representing great human sacrifice.

### **Criterion (g) Special association with community or cultural group**

The Southport War Memorial and Honour Rolls was funded by donations from local residents has been a place of commemoration for the Southport community since 1922. It has a strong, enduring association with the Southport community. The memorial is an important reminder to the community of the great human sacrifice made by local men and women who served in both World Wars in the defence of the country.

### **Criterion (h) Special association with particular person or organisation**

The Southport War Memorial and Honour Rolls have a special and enduring association with the Southport Sub-branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia. This organisation has been instrumental in the care of the memorial and commemoration activities at the memorial.

The war memorial also has a special association with the work of Brisbane-based monumental masonry firm Andrew L. Petrie who designed and constructed the memorial. It was the third of the popular digger style memorials constructed by Andrew L. Petrie on the Gold Coast.

## **Images**



Southport War Memorial. Image courtesy of City of Gold Coast



Honour Rolls and replica pillars. Image courtesy of City of Gold Coast.

## History

### *Southport War Memorial*

In late 1921 the War Memorial Committee informed the Southport Town Council of its intention to erecting a suitable memorial in memory of those who had fallen during World War I and asked permission to erect the memorial on Jetty Hill on the Southport foreshore. After some deliberation as to whether this was the most suitable location, Council decided that the memorial should be located on the esplanade at the foot of Nerang Street and donated £50 (approximately \$3,853 today) towards the costs of construction.<sup>1</sup> The balance of the cost was funded by community donations.<sup>2</sup>

On Anzac Day in 1922, the Southport War Memorial was unveiled to the largest gathering ever seen in Southport to that time.<sup>3</sup> The memorial was constructed by noted Brisbane stonemasons A. L. Petrie<sup>4</sup> and was the third of the popular digger style memorials to be constructed on the South Coast (now known as the Gold Coast) following World War I.

The War Memorial was impressive in size with marble tablets on each side of the pedestal listing the names of those from Southport who served in World War I. It was sited at the end of Nerang Street, facing towards the town.<sup>5</sup> The memorial was flanked by two war trophies on cement emplacements; a 170 mm German Trench Mortar No. 6392 (captured by the 6th Field Company Australian Engineers on the Western Front in 1918) and a 77 mm German Field Gun No. 2715 (handed over by Germany under the terms of the Armistice). These war trophies were given to Southport Town Council as part of War Trophy allocations in 1920.<sup>6</sup>

The unveiling ceremony was preceded by a march from the town hall to the memorial site by about 50 returned soldiers, led by a light horseman and the town band, followed by local school children and citizens. The hymn *Nearer, My God, to Thee* was played by the Southport Band accompanied by the Southport Choral Society. The War Memorial was draped with a Union Jack and Australian flag and unveiled by local identity and politician the Hon. A.G. Appel, M.L.A who also spoke to the occasion.<sup>7</sup>

Following the unveiling the Roll of Honour was read by formerly Captain Dr R.S. Berry and, on behalf of the R.S.S.I.L.A., a laurel wreath was placed by him at the foot of the memorial. Other wreaths were laid by relatives and friends. The ceremony concluded with the Last Post and the singing of Abide With Me and God Save The King.<sup>8</sup>

The memorial is described in a newspaper account of the time as;

‘... made of the best brown Helidon stone, rock faced with margin drift, on two steps, the bottom step being grey granite 6 feet [1.83 metres] square, and rests on a concrete foundation 8 feet [2.44 metres] square. There are four marble panels, on the front one is inscribed the names of those who gave their lives, and on two (sic) sides are inscribed in lead, the names of those who enlisted [and returned]. The monument is surmounted with a stone soldier figure in brown stone, with reversed arms. The total height of the monument is 15½ feet [4.72 metres].’<sup>9</sup>

It was planned that the memorial and war trophies would be surrounded by a wall and railing, and the enclosure would include flower beds and grass.<sup>10</sup> An electric light lit up the memorial at night.

The dedication inscription on the World War I Roll of Honour tablet reads;

**Erected  
BY  
THE RESIDENTS IN APPRECIATION  
OF THOSE WHO ENLISTED  
FROM THE TOWN OF SOUTHPORT  
IN THE GREAT WAR  
1914 – 1919**

The Rolls of Honour include the names of those who enlisted and the names of those who perished during the conflict listed over three tablets. The World War II Roll of Honour is a much simpler arrangement with a short introduction followed by the names of soldiers and the comment ‘Their Name Liveth For Evermore’ at the foot of the tablet.

In 1938 Southport Town Council moved the Southport War Memorial and associated war trophies to Jetty Hill, later renamed Pier Hill and known today as Anzac Park, as part of beautification works along the foreshore. The war memorial was moved to allow for more space on the road to the then Southport pier head.<sup>11</sup>

#### *Gate Pillars Roll of Honour*

In 1953 the memorial gate pillars at Honour Avenue in Queen’s Park, Southport, were demolished. The same year two sandstone gate pillars marking the entrance to what is now known as Anzac Park were erected either side of a pathway leading down to the Pavilion Theatre and Southport Pier. On the sides of the gate pillars were the Rolls of Honour for World War I and II.

The wording of the dedication tablets on the gate pillars for both World Wars is virtually identical and inscribed as follows;

**Lest We Forget**  
**THESE GATES WERE ERECTED**  
**AND THIS AVENUE PLANTED**  
**BY THE CITIZENS OF**  
**SOUTHPORT**  
**IN HONOUR OF SOUTHPORT**  
**MEN WHO MADE THE**  
**Supreme Sacrifice**  
**IN THE GREAT WAR**  
**1914 – 1919**

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**Lest We Forget**  
**THESE GATES WERE ERECTED**  
**AND THIS AVENUE PLANTED**  
**BY THE CITIZENS OF**  
**SOUTHPORT**  
**IN HONOUR OF SOUTHPORT**  
**MEN WHO MADE THE**  
**Supreme Sacrifice**  
**IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR**  
**1939 – 1945**

*Redevelopment of Anzac Park 2010*

After more than 70 years in Anzac Park the redevelopment of the Southport Broadwater Parklands in 2010 necessitated the move of the South War Memorial for a second time. The memorial was dismantled and restored by stonemasons J.H. Wagner and Sons of Toowoomba, before being re-erected in the Southport Broadwater Parklands not far from its original position at the end of Nerang Street.<sup>12</sup> Following relocation a black marble plaque was attached to the front of the base of the Southport War Memorial marking the most recent unveiling. This plaque reads;

**THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED**  
**BY**  
**MAYOR RON CLARKE MBE**  
**AND**  
**COUNCILLOR DAWN CRICHLow OAM**  
**11 NOVEMBER 2010**  
**THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO**  
**THE CITIZENS OF SOUTHPORT**  
**LEST WE FORGET**

The Rolls of Honour were removed from the original gate pillars in Anzac Park, (the gates remain in situ today), and affixed to new replica pillars located either side of the path leading to the relocated Southport War Memorial.

### *War Trophies*

The war trophies were removed from the war memorial following the relocation of the memorial from the end of Nerang Street to Jetty Hill. Research undertaken by the City of Gold Coast in 2015 suggests that one was moved to military premises in Brisbane and the other used as a target for training exercises during World War II or both were used as targets for training exercises during World War II. It is noted that this is anecdotal as no archival evidence of their removal exists.<sup>13</sup>

## **Description**

The Southport War Memorial is brown Helidon sandstone and sits on two steps; one of sandstone and the bottom step being rough faced grey granite being approximately 1.8 metres square. The monument then rests on a concrete foundation. The total height of the monument is approximately 4.7 metres.

The monument is surmounted with a stone soldier figure or digger with reversed arms. The digger's statues are all individual and differences can be identified between the fifty-five known to be surviving in Queensland.<sup>14</sup> The Southport version of the digger has his rifle resting on his left boot and his hands are crossed, right over left, on the butt of the rifle. The stump is connected to the rear of the right leg for support with both legs straight. The digger excludes some of the features typically found on other similar memorials such as no moustache, no emu plume on his hat, no back pack and no side packs. The digger does, however, have a chin strap and ammunition packs on his belt.<sup>15</sup> These variations between individual digger, fine attention to detailing and high quality design and crafting are characteristics of the digger memorials produced by Brisbane monumental masonry firm A.L. Petrie.

Four marble tablets are attached on each sides of the memorials support pillar forming the Roll of Honour. The front tablet is inscribed with the names of those who gave their lives in service during World War I. The two side tablets list the names of those who enlisted, and returned, from service during World War I. The rear tablet is the Roll of Honour from 1939 – 1945 and this was fixed to the memorial following the end of World War II.

Another later addition to the Southport War Memorial is a black marble plaque marking the unveiling of the memorial following the 2010 relocation to its present location. This plaque is attached to the front of the pillar base in a space which appears to have been incorporated in to the original design of the memorial for the addition of later plaques and tablets. All four sides of the base of the war memorial pillar have this space and consultation of earlier images of the war memorial suggests that the 2010 plaque is the first plaque attached in this way.

The entranceway Roll of Honour gate pillars include five marble tablets, two of which are the dedication tablets for each World War while the remaining three list the Roll of Honour for each conflict. The wording on both dedication tablets is virtually identical. Although closely matched, the dedication and Roll of Honour tablets show a difference in the vein patterns of those tablets associated with World War II.

The Rolls of Honour are not consistent between those on the Southport War Memorial and the Memorial Gate Pillars with the order of names being slightly different, occasional discrepancies in the spelling of surnames and the World War II Rolls of Honour having a different number of names with the Memorial Gate Pillars having 60 names and the Southport War Memorial having 58 names.

## References

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- 2 City of Gold Coast. nd. *Gold Coast Historic War Memorials*. nc:np. p. 15
- 3 "Southport War Memorial" *The Brisbane Courier (Qld. 1864 - 1933)* 26 April 1922: 8. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article20536138>>.
- 4 City of Gold Coast. nd. *Gold Coast Historic War Memorials*. nc:np. p. 15
- 5 "Southport Heroes" *The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld.: 1903 - 1926)* 28 April 1922: 6. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article213150748>>.
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- 7 "Southport War Memorial" *The Brisbane Courier (Qld. 1864 - 1933)* 26 April 1922: 8. Web. 5 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article20536138>>.  
 "Southport Heroes" *The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. 1903 - 1926)* 28 April 1922: 6. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article213150748>>.  
 "Southport Soldiers." *The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. 1872 - 1947)* 28 April 1922: 3. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article180063542>>.
- 8 "Southport War Memorial" *The Brisbane Courier (Qld. 1864 - 1933)* 26 April 1922: 8. Web. 5 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article20536138>>.  
 "Southport Heroes" *The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. 1903 - 1926)* 28 April 1922: 6. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article213150748>>.  
 "Southport Soldiers." *The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. 1872 - 1947)* 28 April 1922: 3. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article180063542>>.  
 Some accounts have the order of the reading of the Roll of Honour and placing of the R.S.S.I.L.A. wreath reversed.
- 9 "Southport Soldiers." *The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. 1872 - 1947)* 28 April 1922: 3. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article180063542>>.
- 10 "Southport Heroes" *The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. 1903 - 1926)* 28 April 1922: 6. Web. 6 Jan 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article213150748>>.
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- 12 City of Gold Coast. nd. *Gold Coast Historic War Memorials*. nc:np. p. 15  
 "Southport War Memorial" nd. Web. 20 Dec 2017 <<http://jhwagner.com.au/southport-war-memorial>>.
- 13 'War Trophies Allocated to the Town of Southport in 1920', Letter from Tom Tate, Mayor, City of Gold Coast, 24 June 2015. City of Gold Coast file series PN327339/1181/1181(p1).
- 14 Mc Ivor, S & T, 1994, *Salute the Brave; A Pictorial Record of Queensland War Memorials*, Toowoomba: USQ Press. Cited in J.M. Pearce Architects, 2009, *Southport ANZAC Memorial Relocation Southport Broadwater Parklands*, Heritage Impact Report, Ipswich: J.M. Pearce Architects, p. 5.
- 15 J.M. Pearce Architects, 2009, *Southport ANZAC Memorial Relocation Southport Broadwater Parklands*, Heritage Impact Report, Ipswich: J.M. Pearce Architects, p. 5.