

A Brief Background and History of Memorial Oval, Ingleburn

The Campbelltown News article was obtained from microfiche held by the Local Studies section of Campbelltown Library. I have transcribed the article for easier reading.

Ingleburn Memorial Park

To commemorate as well as to celebrate the opening of the Ingleburn Soldier's Memorial Park - a huge combined effort - Procession, Sports and entertainment in the evening - took place at the very pretty township of Ingleburn on Saturday last. For some years the Ingleburn people were at a loss to know which was the most suitable gift they could give to their town and district in which to memorise the glorious and noble deeds of their sons who fought for the protection of Australia, Liberty, and Honour between the years 1914. '19. For a considerable time the idea of a drinking fountain held prominent in the minds of several people, but this idea was soon lost when hopes for a park were seen in the far distance, and probably no person could have worked harder for their goal than did Mr. George E. O. Craft, and ably assisted by Ald. H Chivers (Mayor of Ingleburn) and his brother aldermen.

It was on Saturday that the park was officially opened and, while Mr. W. E. Wearne, M.L.A. (Minister for Lads) was to have performed the ceremony, he was unable to do so, having been called away on Ministerial business in the country. In Mr. Wearne's absence Mr F. Boyce M.L.C., K.C., officially declared the Park open. Mr. Boyce was accompanied by Messrs. Fitzsimons and Walker, Ms.L.A.

With Mr. Geo. Craft and Mr. Francis Campbell Joint Secretaries, and a hand full of hard workers, the Sports programme was commenced punctual to time, and the various events were being decided when the Procession - leaving the School of Arts - entered the new Park. The procession was headed by the Ingleburn Municipal Band and followed by the Mayor of Ingleburn (Ald. H. Chivers), the Campbelltown and

Ingleburn Boy Scouts, under the leadership of Scout Master Eather and Cub Leader Coogan, two prettily decorated cars (which afterwards divided the prize in a competition), the Liverpool District Ambulance, the Mayor and Mayoress of Campbelltown (Ald. R. E. Gamble and Mrs. Thos. Gamble), as well as a great number of people from various parts of the district. After the procession arrived at Memorial Park the Official Opening took place.

The Official Opening. - A more delightful position for a Park could not be found in the vicinity, and it was under one of the perfectly shaped gum trees that a temporary platform was erected, from which the Park was declared open and handed over to the citizens of Ingleburn, in addressing several hundred people and introducing Mr. Boyce, M.L.C., said. - "At last, after a long time, we assemble here this afternoon to open the Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park, which would not have been here perhaps only for Mr. W.E. Wearne, the Minister for Lands (unfortunately not with us) who gave us £250 towards the purchasing of the land. You will be pleased to know that since we were able to purchase this peace of land for a Park we have nearly paid the whole of the purchase money, and in the very near future we feel sure the amount owing will be paid. In the absence Mr. Wearne we have with us Mr. F. Boyce, M.L.C., K.C., whom I now introduce to you, and who will declare the Park open."

Mr. Boyce was greeted with applause when he stepped forward to make the announcement long wished for by the whole of Ingleburn's population. "First of all," said Mr. Boyce, "I have to state that my friend and colleague Mr. Walter Wearne, was unable to be present with you this afternoon, and he asked me to tell you how aggrieved he was by not being able to

come along, and so he sent me to open this beautiful park of yours. Mr. Wearne is not at the Cricket Test match this afternoon (laughter). He is away in the country dealing with Ministerial business, and Mr. Wearne is a man who does not neglect his duty. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to come along representing the Minister for Lands, and to open this Park, and although your worthy Mayor said possibly you would not have had the Park only for Mr. Wearne, let me say, you own the Park by your own unselfish endeavours. Certainly you received £250 from the Government I am proud to be associated with, but the other half you are unselfishly supplying yourselves. The present government likes to help those who help themselves, and it was your own help and the support of your members, Messrs. Fitzsimons and Walker, through which you obtained this area of 16 acres, 1 rood, 4 perches, and your trustees, Messrs. H. Chivers, F. Moore, C. Luff, W. A. Ellis and G. Craft, shows your selection to be a good one. In giving a Park to the citizens of Ingleburn you could not have given a more noble gift, for you will all long remember the great debt we owe to your own boys who went away from Ingleburn to the War, it is a great gift that will not only be remembered today but for all time. I have very much pleasure in declaring the Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park open." (Applause.)

Ald. F. Moore (who with Mr. O. Black, Guaranteed the balance of the purchase money), in asking that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Boyce for opening the Park, and to Messrs. Fitzsimons and Walker, M's.L.A., for their earnest support in procuring the Park, said no doubt Ingleburn must consider itself lucky in securing such a fine property for a park. The vote of thanks was carried with applause, after which Ald. Moore conveyed to those gentlemen, on behalf of the people of Ingleburn, hearty appreciations.

Mr. Bruce Walker, in responding, said he appreciated the vote of thanks and thought it should deal more with Mr. Boyce, who

came to Ingleburn representing the Minister for Lands, Mr. Boyce, during the past week, had had arduous duties to attend to, and it was very good of him to come to Ingleburn to assist your members and Ministers by giving up his Saturday afternoon.

Speaking of the representatives in Parliament, we have had very little sleep this week, but we will soon be rewarded, as we are going onto recess for a few months. Perhaps some of us will have a much longer recess after the next election but we can't help it if we do; we have done our best. I congratulate you on choosing a park in commemorating the glorious deeds of your soldiers, and I offer you the suggestion not to shift any of the trees growing on the Park; leave them where they are, you will want any amount of shade, so preserve the trees; you are most fortunate in securing flat ground, it will make an excellent sports ground. As regards the object of this park, you could not have given a better gift; it will not only serve for to-day, but will be preserved for those who come after. You have decided to call this land the "Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park." Thus placing something in memory of those who went to the Great War from Australia and Ingleburn in particular. Ingleburn is going ahead, and I hear you are going to have a "Hollywood" in the district, the centre of picture producing in Australia. In Ingleburn land is selling as high as £4 per foot; that being so you must go ahead. These parks are what all centres want, and we must appeal to the boys and girls to look after them, as it is they who are to make the success of Australia. I thank you for the hearty vote of thanks, and am pleased you have got your Park, and if we have helped you to get it it is only after all a part of our duty. (Applause.)

Mr. Fitzsimons, in responding to the vote of thanks, said the last time he was in Ingleburn was when the Mayor and Mr. Moore took him over this land and asked him to approach Mr. Wearne for some money in which to pay for it. Mr. Walker, Mr. Molesworth and myself approached the

Russ Casew

Minister, and did not give him any peace until he gave you the £250, so it was your members who actually got the money from the Government. In purchasing a park for Ingleburn in memory of your own sons and brothers, you have made wise step, and I congratulate you all. It is also very pleasant for me to say that you have a very good Mayor in Ald. Chivers, who is a Trustee of this Park, and I would like to tell you that your Mayor has just been gazetted as your Justice of Peace for the Ingleburn District. (Applause.) some people think very light of being gazetted a J.P., but before a person can become a one he is subjected to strict investigation by the Government, and Ald Chivers is a man who elevated himself as worthy to become a J.P., and was approved by the Government. I do not purpose making a long address this afternoon, but you have all heard about the gold passes, and Mr. Boyce was one who rejected it; however, it makes no difference to me, because I am always going to be in Parliament. (Laughter.) Now you have this Park I hope you are not only going to look at it; the reason it is established is because you have decided to keep in memory the services of Ingleburn's men who went to the war, and for a little place like this it shows your loyalty to have sent 40 soldiers of which no less than six made the supreme sacrifice. I am only too pleased as your representative to come here and help you to do honour to the brave soldiers who were left over on the other side.

Three cheers were given to Mr. Boyce and Messrs. Fitzsimons and Walker, after which the National Anthem was sung.

The Sports

In the centre of the park a cycling track has already been made, and the programme contained several events which were keenly contested by a large number of entrants. Foot races for all persons were numerous, and exciting finishes were witnessed in most of the events. Competitions were numerous, and during the afternoon a display of maypole dacing was given by the Ingleburn school children. The success of

the sports lies chiefly with the strenuous work done by Mr. Craft (the daddy of sports in Ingleburn district). Mr. Craft, by his organising abilities attracted no less than 700 people to be present, and is proud to say that the total expenses involved will not be vary much over £3. The prizes were an excelent lot, and were donated by the public. A beautiful silver kettle and spirit lamp on a silver frame valued at £7/7/, was the principal prize, and was given as a prize for a cycle race. Ald F. Moore was the donor. The band played numerous selections during the afternoon.

Distribution of Prizes

The prizes were given to the many winners at an entertainment held in the School of Arts in the evening. The winners were:-

120yds footrace.- B. Sutton, 11¹/₂ yds 1, P. Casey, 7¹/₂ yds 2, C. Chapman 10 yds 3.

75yds footrace.- E. Kennet 5yds 1, h. Doyle 6yds 2.

¹/₂ mile bicycle race.- F. Thorman, scr, 1, P. Clarke, scr, 2.

¹/₂ mile bicycle race.- L. Wills, 50 yds 1, J. Clarke, 35 yds 2, A collinmore, 55 yds 3.

1 mile bicycle race.- M. Mills, 120 yds, 1 A. Brown, 100yds 2, L Wills, 100yds, 3.

100yds footrace.- B. Sutton, 9yds, 1, P. Casey, 5³/₄ yds, 2, D. Buggy, 11yds, 3.

¹/₂ - mile footrace.- B. Kershaw, 40 yds, 1, E. Kennet, 50 yds, 2, C. Cole, 40 yds, 3.

100 yds footrace (Ingleburn C'ship.) - C. Chapman.

120 yds hurdle race.- D. Buggy 9 yds, 1, P Casey, 3¹/₂ yds, 2 A. Floyd, 8 yds, 3.

Pole vault.- B. Buggy, 11'8", 1, A. Floyd, scr, 2.

Boys race.- -, Thompson 1, -, Black, 2.

Siamese race.- Messrs. Hopping and Kennet 1.

Stepping 100 yds, W. Clarke 1.

Comically dressed person.- E. Hopping.

Throwing cricket ball.- D. Murray.

Decorated Motor car.- Miss Maze and Mr. Andrews divided.

Weight of special loaf of bread.- Mr. James, 1

Bun eating.- -, Simmons 1.

I have also read through the minutes of the Ingleburn Municipal Council, which was a harrowing experience due to the fact that up until 1930 the minutes were hand written, some are quite clear but most are very difficult to decipher, here are some of the mentions of Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park. I have included some other interesting items that were noted at that meeting. I have used the same spelling and grammar as contained in the minutes.

6 December 1921

"The matter of a Park for Ingleburn was discussed & on the motion of Ald. Luff 2nd by Alderman Hopping it was resolved that the Mayor call a Public Meeting in the Council Chambers to consider the matter."

The previous motion, "Ald Luff moved the following motion which due notice had been given – That the Clerks Salary be raised to 102£ per Annum. 2 that the office be open for two days a week, taking effect from Jan 1st 1922, this was seconded by Ald Hopping.

An Amendment was Moved by Ald Willis that the Salary be £104 per annum, this was seconded by Ald Luf after withdrawing his motion – The amendment was put & the motion carried."

20 November 1923

"Moved by Ald Moore Seconded by Ald Hopping that the Liverpool Council be asked to form footpath to Soldiers Memorial entrance from Railway Station along Denham Court Rd. Ingleburn Council to provide grader & Plough if L'pool will provide labour."

23 June 1931, (Inwards correspondence)

From: *Soldiers Memorial Park Improvement Committee – Submitting plans and asking for permission to erect gates at the entrance to the park in Denham Court Road.*

Ald McFarland moved that permission be granted. Seconded Ald Firth. Carried.

From H.S.McIlveen – asking for permission to move the Bath heater from Ingleburn Road to Norfolk Street. Permission granted.

28 July 1931, (Inwards correspondence)

From: *Soldiers Memorial Park Imp. Committee – asking Council to have a portion of the Park ploughed for the purpose of planting trees. Ald McFarland moved that the necessary work be carried out. Seconded Ald Hazlett. Carried.*

From: *Ingleburn District Cricket Club – Applying for permission to burn off the grass on the oval in the Park Ald Hazlett moved that permission be granted. Seconded by Ald Firth. Carried. It was also decided to grant permission to the Club to make alterations to the dressing rooms at their own expense.*

From: Municipality of Newtown – inviting co-operation in protesting against the action of the State Governor in refusing to accept the advice of Ministers in the carrying out of his function as the representative of H.M. the King. Ald Hazlett moved that the letter not be received. Seconded Ald Chivers. Carried.

25 August 1931, (Inwards correspondence)

From: *Soldiers Memorial Park Improvement Comm. – asking if Council will have the meter moved and two stand pipes erected in the Park. Ald Hazlett moved that the necessary work be carried out at a cost not exceed £2.10.0. Seconded Ald Firth. Carried*

Ross Corcoran ..

17 August 1932, Report of Parks and Lighting Committee.

Charges for Ingleburn Park. It is recommended that application be made to the Reliefe Council for a grant for general improvements to the Soldiers, Memorial Park with a view to some revenue being derived therefrom.

Also reported: ...it is recommended that Mr Massey's wage be increased to £3.0.0 per week and the conditioned of employment be left in the hands of the Town Clerk and Mayor ...

9 May 1933, Town Clerk's Report

Burgulary: between the hours of 9.15 P.M. on the 19th ultimo and 9.20 A.M. on the 20th theives forced an entry to the Council Chambers. The door was blown off the safe and the office badly ransacked. The following cash and articles were stolen:-

Rates	£1.7.3
Petty Cash	2.16.8
Stamps	4.2
Automatic Pistol	1.7.6
1 box of Cartridges	2.7
1 "Hotpoint" electric Iron	18.8
	<hr/>
	£7.16.10

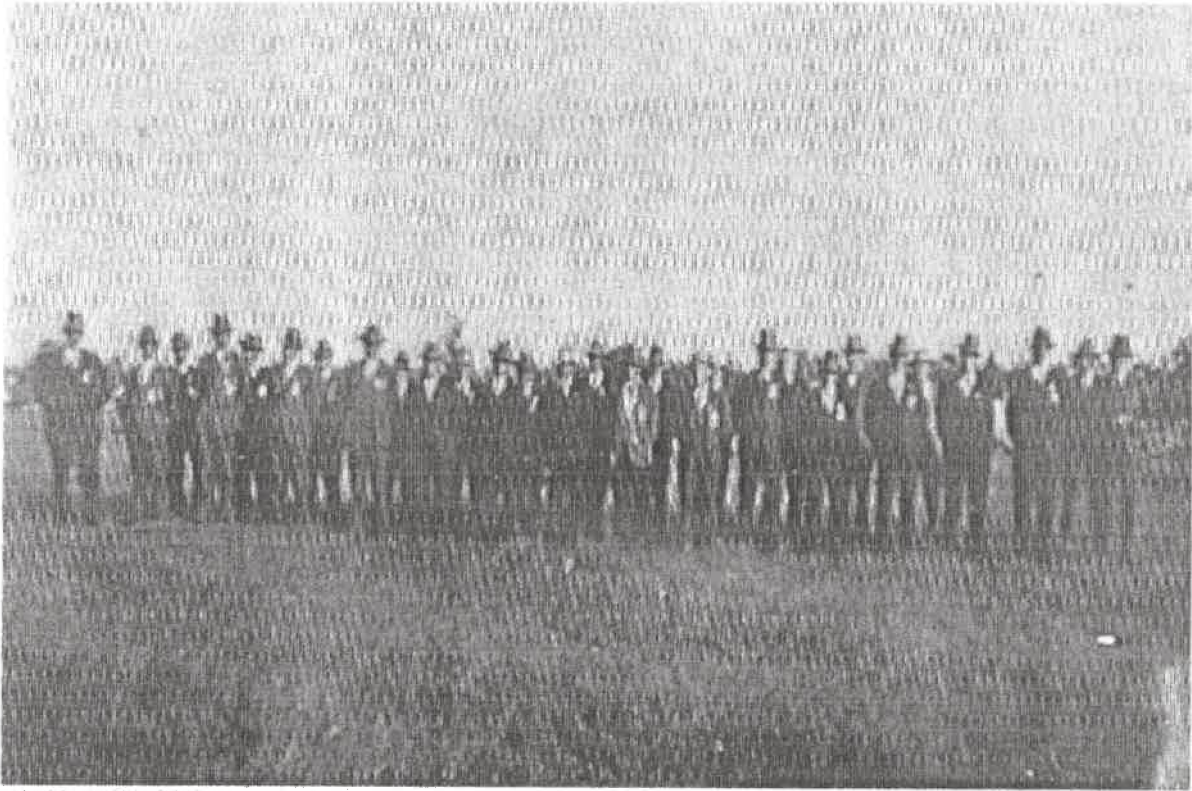
In addition four open cheques amounting to £50.8.6 signed by the Mayor for wages and salaries were stolen. These were not countersigned by myself and payment was stopped immediatly. A cheque book issued on 8/10/28 to the Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial Park on the Commercial Banking Co at Campbelltown was stolen and some of the cheques were cashed by City Firms, the signatures being forged. A man has since been arrested and charged and the first case of forgery will probably be heard within a week.

The photos on the following pages are held by and copyrighted to Campbelltown City Library. The date in the title of the first picture is wrong, it should read 1924.

I would like to borrow any photos taken at Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park at any time, it would also help if: the date of the photo, the event depicted in the photo and the names of persons, if known, were also provided

I would also like any press clippings, articles etc, that would help me in my endeavours.

Russ Case.



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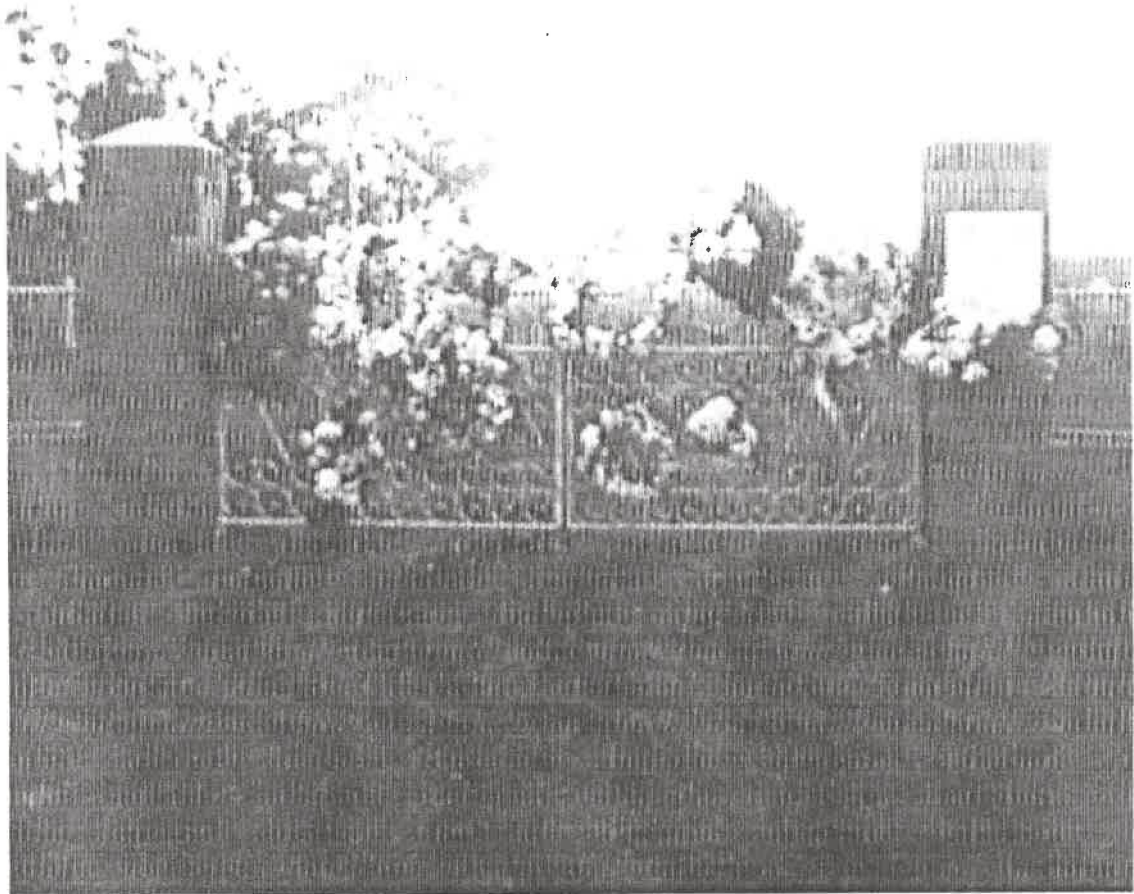
..TITLE Opening of Memorial Park, Ingleburn in 1925
..DESCRPT parks
..SUBJECT Memorial Park (Ingleburn, N.S.W.)
..ORIGINAL b&w, 4 x 7 cm.
..LOCATTON Local Studies Collection. Campbelltown City Library
..DATE 1925
..PHOTOG
..NOTES
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..TITLE Opening of gates at Memorial Park, Ingleburn by Sir Charles
 Rosenthal
..DESCRPT gates, flags, parks, uniforms, rostra
..SUBJECT Memorial Park (Ingleburn, N.S.W.); Rosenthal, Charles, Sir
..ORIGINAL b&w, 12 x 19 cm.
..LOCATION Campbelltown City Library. Local Studies Collection
..DATE 25th October 1931
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..TITLE Gates at Memorial Park, Memorial Avenue, Ingleburn
..DESCRPT gates, parks, wreaths
..SUBJECT Memorial Park (Ingleburn, N.S.W.)
..ORIGINAL b&w, 9 x 9 cm.
..LOCATION Campbelltown City Library. Local Studies Collection
..DATE 24 April 1932

Russ. Carr.