

INGLEBURN RSL SUB BRANCH HISTORY

POTTED HISTORY OF INGLEBURN RSL MEMORIAL GARDENS

Russ Carew RAAF Meritorious Winner



12

POTTED HISTORY OF INGLEBURN RSL MEMORIAL GARDENS

The original Memorial Gardens in Memorial Avenue Ingleburn dated back to 1930 when the Council handed over the area to the RSL Sub Branch. Here are details of the rundown of the Memorial Gardens:

- The original Memorial Gardens was located in Laycock Estate in 1920 (no park at the time).
- In 1925 the Council and local citizens with help from both from Local Citizens and Sub Branch that the area was then developed into a park.
- In 1927 Liverpool Sub Branch and Council handed over the Memorial Garden to Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch in the 1930's.
- In 1925 first ANZAC Day in Ingleburn.
- In 1931 fence and gates in Memorial Gardens.
- In 1984 first Sub Branch Dinner.
- Ex Servicemen had to be a member of the Sub Branch for 5 years before they were eligible to be placed in the Memorial Gardens. At the time to be placed in the Memorial Gardens a form was given to the family to be processed by the Sub Branch.

A brief History done by the Campbelltown News on the Memorial Oval Ingleburn which is held by the Local Studies Section at the Campbelltown Library.

'A BRIEF BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF MEMORIAL OVAL, INGLEBURN

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 deed of their sons who fought for the protection of Australia,

Liberty and Honour between the years 1914 – 1919. 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 hard 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 H Wearne, MLA (Minister for Lands) was to have performed the ceremony, he was unable to so having been called away on Wearne's absence Mr F Boyce MLC KC officially declared the Park open. Mr Boyce was accompanied by Messrs Fitzsimons and Walker Ms LA.

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 and Cub Leader Cogan two prettily decorated cars (which afterwards divided the prize in a competition) the Liverpool District Ambulance, the Mayor and Mayoness 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, MLC 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 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 piece of land for a Park we have nearly paid for 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 MLC KC, 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 of Lands and to 'open this Park and although your worthy Major said possible 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 peaches 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 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 balanced 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'sLA for their earnest support in procuring the Park said no bout 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 though 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 so, 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 that 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 shaft 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 that 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 today but will be preserved for those who after. You have decided to call this land the "Ingleburn Soldiers Memorial Park." Thus placing something in memory of those 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 I am pleased you have got your Park, and If we have helped you to ge 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 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 JP but before a person can become one he is subjected to strict investigations by the Government, and Ald Chivers is a man who elevated himself as worthy to become a JP, and was approved by the Government. I do not purpose making a long address this afternoon, buy 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). No 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.

Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch



INGLEBURN RSL SUB BRANCH ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Russ Carew

Meritorious Medal Winner

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