



Adding names and plaques to existing war memorials

The addition of new commemorative elements to existing war memorials should be carefully considered. Every war memorial is a unique and valued statement of the community that established it and should be managed cautiously. While this fact sheet provides general guidance, it is important to appropriately investigate and seek advice that is specific to your war memorial prior to planning any works.

A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO CHANGE

Ask a heritage professional, such as your local council's heritage advisor, for advice and support before planning any work to a war memorial or its surroundings. Works and changes to war memorials should be approached cautiously and be sensitive to the war memorial's original fabric.

INVESTIGATE THE WAR MEMORIAL

Adding new commemorative elements to a war memorial, such as additional names or plaques, can compromise the community's original intentions and the design of the memorial.ⁱ Before planning additions to an existing war memorial, please research the history of the war memorial. It is important to

KEY FACTS

- Additions to the original fabric of a war memorial should be carefully considered.
- Approach changing the original fabric of a war memorial with caution.
- Before planning any works to an existing war memorial, you should:
 - **investigate** its history, condition and significance
 - **consult** key stakeholders such as the owner/custodian of the war memorial, the local RSL sub branch, the local council and the broader community
 - **seek advice** from a heritage professional

understand how and why the original names on the war memorial were identified and to whom the war memorial is dedicated. Check if there was a specific criteria for inclusion when the memorial was first established.

CONSULT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Consult key stakeholders such as the owner/custodian of the memorial, the local council and the RSL sub branch before planning any additions to an existing war memorial. You should also employ a qualified heritage professional to provide advice on the appropriateness and practicalities of making alterations to the war memorial.

ADDING NAMES TO A WAR MEMORIAL

In Australia, war memorials commonly list the names of servicemen and women who died on active service and those who have returned from war. However, the criteria for inclusion varies from memorial to memorial. Rather than adding names directly to an original war memorial, consider adding names to the vicinity of a war memorial, such as on a sympathetically designed plaque nearby.

OTHER ADDITIONS TO A WAR MEMORIAL

Additional commemorative elements can detract from the aesthetic and design of a war memorial and are generally not recommended. The addition of items such as plaques, badges and murals should be carefully considered to conserve the integrity of historic war memorials.

This fact sheet is available on the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) website at <https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/heritage/caring-for-our-war-memorials/>. If you have any further questions, please contact the OVA at <https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/contact/>.

ⁱ War Memorials Trust (2013) 'Addition of names to war memorials'