THE ANZAC MEMORIAL

The Anzac Memorial, in Sydney’s Hyde Park, was built to honour those who served their country in the Great War and be a place of comfort for those whose loved ones did not return.

Marking the 100th anniversary of the First World War, the Centenary Project was delivered by the Trustees, with the financial support of the State and Commonwealth Governments. It finally realises architect Charles Bruce Dellit’s original vision for two water features through the completion of his concept for a water cascade to the south. Distinguished architectural firm Johnson Pilton Walker designed the Centenary Extension in collaboration with the NSW Government Architect’s Office. New spaces for the community deliver enhanced education and interpretation spaces that enable the Anzac legacy, Australia’s military history and the service and sacrifice of our defence personnel and their families to be interpreted for generations to come.

C.W. Bostock’s painting of the Memorial published in The Book of the Anzac Memorial, 1934.
COMPLETING THE 1930s VISION

Architect Bruce Dellit's original concept for the Anzac Memorial included two water features. The economic impact of the Great Depression adversely influenced the completion of the Memorial and elements of the original design had to be abandoned because of their costs. The Pool of Reflection on the northern side of the Memorial was finished after unemployment relief funds were released to the City of Sydney. The water cascade to the south of the building was not able to be built.

The Centenary Project completes Dellit's proposed cascade. A walkway through the cascade takes visitors down into new education and interpretation facilities and the Hall of Service (named in acknowledgement of more than a century of military service).
Designed and built in the 1930s, the Anzac Memorial with its Art Deco styling, was a strikingly modern building for its time. It was also technologically innovative with its reinforced concrete skeleton and synthetic stone sculptures.

"IT IS FITTING THAT AS WE COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC WE COMMENCE WORK ON THIS SIGNIFICANT PROJECT."

THE HON. DAVID ELLIOTT MP
NSW MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

Built, an experienced heritage builder, was the head contractor responsible for the Centenary Project construction.

Built also recently completed the refurbishment of the Australian War Memorial’s First World War Galleries in preparation for the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing.
ARTISTIC COLLABORATION

A new artwork for the Hall of Service, a civic space that architecturally and artistically mirrors the Hall of Silence in the original building, has been created to continue the Memorial’s tradition of artistic collaboration.

Australian artist Fiona Hall was commissioned to work with the project architect, Richard Johnson, to create this new work, which replicates the Memorial’s seamless integration of the designs of artist Rayner Hoff and architect Bruce Dellit.
NSW SOIL COLLECTION PROGRAM

Fiona Hall’s artwork features three separate elements. One is a display of the names of the towns, suburbs and districts NSW First World War enlistees gave as their home address. The list of names encapsulates the geographical reach of the call to serve and signals the willingness and enthusiasm of so many from diverse regions who answered the call to join the War.

One thousand, seven hundred and one samples of soil collected from each listed locale is displayed alongside its place name on the walls of the Hall of Service. Memorial visitors are able to access maps and discover facts on the NSW enlistees.

*The Hall of Service close to completion (left) and collecting soil in Singleton (top and bottom right).*
100 SITES OF NSW
MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE

A ring of samples of earth collected from 100 sites of significance to NSW’s military service have been embedded into the Hall’s floor. The list of sites from across the world extends from 19th century battles through to modern-day Australian peacekeeping missions and honours more than a century of service.

THE BOTANIC COLLECTION

Eight glass urns, each hand-etched with an image of a different plant species associated with Australia’s service in the First World War, are showcased at the entrances to the Hall of Service.
AN INFORMATIVE AND MEDITATIVE PLACE FOR CONTEMPORARY AUDIENCES

State of the art auditorium facilities now allow the Memorial to run education programs and host conferences and public events. JPW’s design of the space was centred round flexibility, functionality and quality of the space.

The Auditorium has the capacity to seat 120 people, but it can also be divided into two separate spaces by extending a folding wall housed in the joinery at the front of the room.

The Centenary Extension also houses The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, NSW (RUSI) Library. The RUSI is an independent, apolitical, not-for-profit, public education association incorporated in New South Wales. Since 1888, it has been promoting informed debate on, and enhancing public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security.

The Ursula Davidson Library, named after RUSI’s librarian from 1942 to 2005, was established in 1889 and holds some 30,000 books, journals, maps and other historic artefacts of military significance dating from the late eighteenth century to the present. The Library has been assessed as being of National Significance, and its collection includes important material from colonial New South Wales and from the wars of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with an emphasis on Australian, particularly NSW, unit histories. The Library is open to the public, to allow access to the RUSI collection.
The new exhibition spaces have allowed the Anzac Memorial to illustrate the evolution of Australian military service, while focusing on stories of NSW service. The design and content for the exhibition has been inspired by the Memorial’s buttress sculptures, which depict the wide-ranging military roles performed by Australians in the First World War. The exhibition explains these roles and how the various functions have evolved to the current day.

The detailed storytelling of the new exhibition complements the quiet spaces and symbols of the original Memorial building. Indeed the Centenary Extension can be seen as the final realisation of the Memorial’s grand vision.