
ROZELLE TRAM DEPOT WAR MEMORIAL

WAR MEMORIAL ROZELLE TRAMWAY DEPOT A STATUE UNVEILED

Yesterday afternoon official regulations were relaxed at the Rozelle Tramway Depot, and visitors were allowed to witness the unveiling of a war memorial in the form of a statue. Seats were provided on the well-kept lawn the centre of which the monument to Rozelle tramway men, who have fallen, was covered by a Union Jack. Wreaths were placed at the base of the monument. Sixty men of the Rozelle Depot formed a guard of honour, and the Massed Tramway Inter-Depot Bands were in attendance, under Bandmaster K. Davidson, and the secretary, Mr. T. M'Master.

Mr. W. Phillips, Depot Master, presided and on the improvised platform were Mr. T. Keegan, M.L.A., Military Chaplain, the Rev John Boardman, Mr. E. J. Doran (Tramway Traffic Superintendent), Mr. C. H. Neale (Assistant Tramway Traffic Superintendent), Mr J. Hermann (Outdoor Superintendent), Mr. H. Mark (District Superintendent), Mr. T. Perk (District Superintendent), Mr. J. M'Cartly (President of the Tramway Union), Mr. Heydon (Depot Master, Dowling-street), Mr David Ford (hon. secretary Rozelle Tramway Monument Fund), Mr. Claude Thompson (secretary Railway and Tramway Service Association), and others.

The chairman said he was sorry that the Governor was not able to unveil the memorial. He had received a letter from his Excellency expressing his regret, and letters of apology from the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Fraser, the Commissioner for Tramways, Mr. Milne, and the Secretary for Railways, Mr. Spurway. The memorial was in honour of six men who had given their lives for Australia while fighting under the Union Jack. There were 150 of the Rozelle depot men at the front, and many others had volunteered. Altogether over 900 men from the traffic branch of the Tramway Department had enlisted. The monument had been designed and executed by Mr. E. M'Gowan, a young sculptor, now resident in Sydney, who was a King's Prize-winner at South Kensington, and the winner of the Taylor Art Scholarship at Dublin.

The unveiling ceremony in which Mrs. Doran was assisted by Mr. Keegan, M.L.A., showed the figure of an Australian soldier just having fixed bayonets.

The inscription on the front tablet is as follows:- "Glory to God. Honour to the dead. To the memory of the men of Rozelle tramway depot, who gave their lives for their country in the Great War, 1914-19-. Erected by their comrades." The names on the tablet are G. V. Sandilands, W. G. Robertson, H. Chadwick, F. Beck, T. A. Stewart, and J. G Bell.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 27 November 1916, page 9



*Dedication of the Rozelle
Tram Depot War Memorial
on 26 November 1916
drew a large crowd.*

VC Solomons coll

The Rozelle Depot's War Memorial was set in the depot's award winning gardens well back from the front of the depot
Both: VC Solomons collection



The Rozelle Depot War Memorial (left) and (below) a rear view looking towards the front of the Depot.

Both: I. Cook



The War Memorial remained at the depot after the trams ceased, and was eventually relocated to Leichhardt Bus Depot, where it has undergone refurbishment.



The soldier at Leichhardt Bus Depot.

G. Travers

The War Memorial is on a new brick base and the original plaques have been attached.

Ian MacCowan

ROZELLE RECREATION CLUB ROLL OF HONOUR

Recreation clubs were formed at tram depots to cater for social and sporting activities. The Rozelle Recreation Club affiliated with and became a branch of the Railway and Tramway Institute on 24 November 1917.

No record of the unveiling of the Rozelle Recreation Club's Roll of Honour has been found.



This Roll of Honour is now located at Leichhardt Bus Depot.

Photo by Ian MacCowan.