

Japanese War Cemetery

Introduction Mr Tony Mooney OAM ORS, Cowra RSL Sub Branch

In 1962 Officials from the Japanese Embassy, impressed with the respect shown towards the graves of the war dead, approached the Cowra Shire Council to discuss the possibility of one cemetery for all the war dead who died on Australian soil and for that cemetery to be located in Cowra.

In 1964 a Japanese War Cemetery, designed by Shigeru Yura, was built. The cemetery contains the remains of all Japanese Nationals who died in the Cowra Breakout, the attack on Darwin and the Australian Internment and POW Camps.

Order of Service

Wreath Laying

First Wreath

- * Cr Bill West, Mayor, Cowra Shire Council
- * H.E. Mr Y. Akimoto, Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Australia
- * Mr Bob Dooley, President, Cowra RSL Sub Branch

Second Wreath

- * Mr Don Kibbler AM, Chairman, Cowra Japanese Garden & Cultural Centre
- * Mr Angus Taylor MP, Member for Hume, Parliament of Australia
- * Brig Chris Appleton CSC (Retd), Director, Office of Australian War Graves

Third Wreath

- * Mr Chris Woodthorpe, Director, United Nations Information Centre, Canberra
- * Mr Lawrance Ryan, Chairman, Cowra Internment Symposium
- * Mr T. Kobayashi, Deputy Consul-General of Japan, Sydney

Fourth Wreath

- * Mr Gordon Rolls, President, Cowra Breakout Association
- * Mr Kerry Damm, President, National Servicemen's Association of Australia

Representatives from the Higa, Watanabe, Murakami and Nishi families are invited to place a flower on the grave of their ancestor.

For those who wish to participate, a service will be conducted by the Reverend Saito, Shingon Mission of Australia.

At the conclusion of the service we will move to the Indonesian Gravesite for a cultural performance

Cowra Internment Symposium



UNVEILING OF THE INTERPRETIVE BOARD SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2014

10.00am - Explanation by Dr Keiko Tamura

10.05am - Message from Mr Katsumasa Tashima, Mayor of Kushimoto, Japan (read by Ms Ruruka Minami)

10.10am - Unveiling of the Interpretive Board by Cr Bill West and Mrs Evelyn Suzuki

10.15am - Service of Respect



**COWRA WAR CEMETERIES
DONCASTER DRIVE, COWRA NSW**

Australian War Cemetery

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Four Australian soldiers died during the Cowra Prisoner of War Breakout:

*Private Ralph Jones GC
Private Benjamin Gower Hardy GC
Private Charles Henry Shepherd
Lieutenant Harry Doncaster*

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Australian War Cemetery

Act of Remembrance

Last Post

In military tradition the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest.

Assembly turns to the West
The sounding of the Last Post

Bugler - Mr Glen McLeish, Cowra Town Band
Drummer - Mr Rodney Paine, Cowra Town Band

Ode

Master of Ceremony: *They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*

Assembly responds: *We will remember them*

Master of Ceremony: *Lest we forget*

Assembly responds: *Lest we forget*

Reveille

Reveille is the first bugle call of the day. It signals a new day as we go forward with the ideas and freedom gained by those we salute.

Assembly turns to the East
The sounding of Reveille

Flag Marshall - Member of the Cowra RSL Sub Branch