

# Proserpine Cenotaphs



The Proserpine Cenotaph was originally erected in **1919** at the entrance to the Proserpine Showgrounds. In those days immediately after WW1, the Anzac Day March processed up Anzac Road with the main service being held at the Showgrounds. Returned soldiers undertook the gravelling of this road and an avenue of trees was planted alongside the road at the approach to the cenotaph - one for each WW1 soldier on the cenotaph. The original WW1 tablet had 19 names etched in marble. The monument was unveiled by Mrs Shepherd, the wife of the Chairman of the Proserpine Shire Council, in August 1919. *“I now unveil this memorial tablet to the memory of those brave volunteers from Proserpine, who made the supreme sacrifice, and hereby declare the monument open to the public and trust the names there on will never be forgotten.”*

In **1939** the cenotaph was moved to a location outside the School of Arts building where the entrance to the Sugar Mill is now located in Main Street. This land was provided by the Proserpine Sugar Mill.



In **1984** the cenotaph was transferred to the park area in the grounds of what was then called the Proserpine Cultural Hall at 14 Main Street.

A further two panels were added on either side of the WW1 panel to commemorate those volunteers from Proserpine who lost their lives in WW2 and the Korean War, continuing the practice of listing those who died in service.

In **2021** a new cenotaph was constructed in the gardens of the Proserpine Entertainment Centre following the rebuilding of the Cultural Hall after Cyclone Debbie damage in 2017. An additional 21 soldiers' names were added for both WW1 and WW2.

