



GLEN EIRA

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Shrine of Remembrance

27 November 2013

Talk by Alan Stebbing,

Shrine Guide

Alan Stebbing outlined the past, present and future of this 89 year old Melbourne icon.

The First World War saw 89 000 Victorians serving overseas of whom 19 000 did not return.

The Shrine was built when most Victorians could not travel to foreign burial places. It therefore provided a place for individuals, family and community to grieve, honour and preserve the memories of those they lost. It also honoured the courage of men, women and children who remained at home.

A Victorian War Memorials Committee was established at the end of the First World War, a design competition launched in 1922, and the Shrine design announced in 1923. Controversy over the design and site followed with the commanding site on the Domain chosen for a structure of “monumental and arresting” design.

The successful architects were returned soldiers Philip Hudson and James Wardrop, and Vaughan and Lodge built the Shrine using Tynong granite. The Shrine was dedicated by the Duke of Gloucester on Remembrance Day in 1934 at a ceremony attended by 300 000 people.

The Shrine also commemorates those who served in later wars. The Second World War Memorial, comprising Forecourt, Eternal Flame, Flagpoles and Cenotaph, was dedicated by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954, while the Remembrance Garden–Post 1945 memorial was opened in 1985.

Mr Stebbing outlined different features of the Shrine including the Tympana sculpture work, Buttresses, Crypt, Sanctuary, the Visitor Centre, and Exhibitions, as well as the extensive public program.

Mr Stebbing concluded by outlining the Galleries of Remembrance project which will be the centrepiece of Victoria's preparations for the coming Anzac centenary.

This illuminating talk concluded with audience questions.

Further reading

Shrine of Remembrance website www.shrine.org.au

Scates B *A place to remember: a history of the Shrine of Remembrance*. Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne, 2009.

