

Queensland's Official War Animal Garden



This projects aim is the installation of a War Animal memorial Rose Garden at Newtown Park State Heritage Gardens, Toowoomba. This garden will honour the deeds and sacrifices of both animals and there human companions during war.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Gandhi

Introduction of Topic

The establishment of a War Animal Rose Garden in Toowoomba, this will act as Queensland's official war animal memorial as envisaged by the Queensland Premiers Office. The format to honour them and the men and women that cared, rode, handled or maintained them would be in the form of up to 50 purple war animal roses. Within the middle of the garden would be a plinth mounting a horse's head and plaque denoting the animals of war. This garden will act as a focal point for members of the public to honour the contributions animals have made for the nation.

Animals from all sides worked alongside the troops as beasts of burden as, messengers, ambulance carriers and as comrades. Animals were used by all sides often pressed ganged into service; they had no malice and worked tirelessly alongside their master no matter what nation they served. These animals demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans, the bond was unbreakable, their sacrifice was great – we should honour these animals.

The plinth will be sandstone rock similar to the existing plinths within the garden. The Horse called "*Soaring Spirit*" is sculptured by international artist Susan Bahary who has made several Australian war animal artworks already including Australia's official war animal memorial at Pozieres, France.

Introduction of Organization

The Australian War Animal Memorial Organization (AWAMO), a registered not-for profit Incorporation is made up of community members from diverse backgrounds that have the likeminded aim to recognize the deeds and sacrifices of all animal species, who have given their lives and their loyalty, serving alongside their human comrades on the battlefield.

The AWAMO charter and aims are several fold; to promote the establishment of War Animal plaques and memorials in Australia, at Parks, Returned Serviceman's Leagues or local and Federal government sites to make people

aware, especially the youth of the roles animals have played in war. Secondly too establish small memorials/ bronze plaques at international sites where animals have worked alongside Australian Forces.

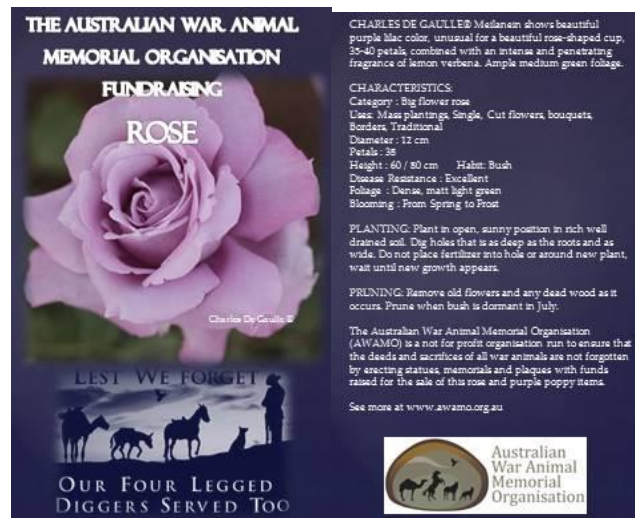
AWAMO has successfully implemented two memorials in Queensland with fiscal support from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Both were established on time to the highest standard within budget.

Implementation

AWAMO first erected a small war animal memorial at Newtown Park rose garden in 2013 to serve as a temporary site for a larger future war animal and soldier memorial. AWAMO already has the Toowoomba Regional Councils permission to establish this memorial as it was always intended to be phase two. Recently the Mayor of Toowoomba announced that the City had inherited the National rose collection from Melbourne. These heritage listed plants will form a new display at the gardens. This development of the rose garden opens an opportunity to establish the war animal rose garden at the same time. The memorial is in keeping with the State heritage gardens image and traditions plus it adds a focal point of interest to the gardens- attracting visitors to view both gardens and memorial thus aiding the local economy.

AWAMO has developed in co-operation with a nursery in South Australia the "Official War Animal Rose" This rose is the *Charles De Gaulle* purple rose which has by permission been rebranded over the Centenary period. AWAMO has agreed to supply all the roses needed for the garden in consultation with the State Rose Garden Heritage Committee. This same rose will be the feature of the Australian war animal memorial in Pozières, France. Australians not able to travel to Pozières, will be able to view the same garden in Toowoomba. Enough roses have to be purchased to provide replacements for the council due to loss or damage.

Surrounded by the roses a plinth 1.5 m high will support Susan Baharys art work.



CHARLES DE GAULLE® Meilanein shows a beautiful purple lilac colours unusual for a beautiful rose-shaped cup, 35-40 petals, combined with an intense and penetrating fragrance of lemon verbena. Ample medium green foliage.

Queensland State Rose Garden - Newtown

Newtown Park is one of Toowoomba's premier parks and is a must-see location. This park covers an area of 30 acres (12 ha). Situated 147 Taylor Street, Newtown QLD 4350.



Comprising three main areas; the renowned Queensland State Rose Garden, children's playground and barbecue area, and the sports ovals including croquet lawns and cricket pitches, there is something for everyone at Newtown Park. There are also a number of linking pathways throughout the park with murals, plaques and rest areas dotted throughout for the enjoyment of park users.



Artist with Soaring Spirit- this horse head represents Australian horses