

Australian Army Band Memorial

During his address at the AABCA 2007 AGM at Gosford, LTCOL Patrick Pickett presented a number of concepts for a memorial to Australian Army musicians who lost their life whilst on active service.

The erection of a memorial was approved at an AGM some time ago, but the project has been in limbo for want of a suitable location. It has been decided that it be given pride of place in front of the DEFENCE FORCE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, WATSONIA.

Members at the Gosford AGM had the opportunity to vote on the concept of their choice. It is the committee's belief ALL members of the association should have the opportunity of input into what form the memorial should take. All present serving members of the AABC are also considered members of the Association and therefore need to be involved as well.

This is an AABCA project with the DFSM giving what assistance it can. LTCOL Pickett and Bob Keatch have secured some support from 22 Construction Squadron.

However, the association will have to raise the funds to pay for the memorial first.

The design will be finalised by the 1st of June and costings will be set soon after that. The Committee is in the process of putting together a submission to DVA for a grant of \$4,000.00 but we need to have a number of things in place before the submission can be presented.

1. Final drawings and costings, RAE will do this after 1 June 2008 when all members will have had the opportunity to nominate what we should construct,
2. Building approval from the local council/Simpson Barracks Corporate Services - Infrastructure Group,
3. Letters of support and..... the most important part,
4. Funds raised from other sources including members of our organisation to match and show good faith in our project.

Therefore we are now putting a proposal to everybody, taking into account that association members attending the last AGM in Gosford gave an indication/commitment that they would contribute \$3,500.00. The following is the proposal mentioned above: -
Gifting for the Memorial may be made in one of four levels. GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE & COPPER.

COPPER: - From \$20.00 to \$74.00. BRONZE: - From \$75.00 to \$149.00.
SILVER: - From \$150.00 to \$249.00. GOLD: - \$250.00 UPWARDS.

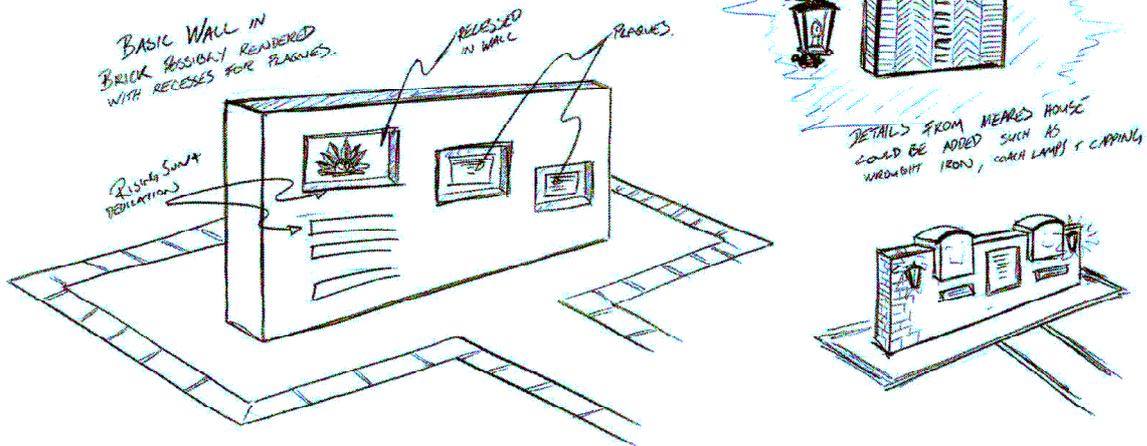
The level of each gift can then be published without anyone knowing the exact amount given by any individual. It will be up to the person concerned whether they want their exact gift to be published or not. Gifts can be made right now, by sending your contribution to Jim Harper making sure that you let him know that it is a 'Memorial Gift'.

Two of the committee members look like taking on a fundraising project, which is a separate thing from member's personal gifts. They will be collecting CDs from Service Bands in Australia to put a together a raffle for the collection. More details will be published on the website and in the AABC Birthday edition of NOTEWORTHY NEWS.

If members want to assist in the fundraising they will be welcomed with open arms. However, please make sure you contact Pat 'Sammy' Steer first as he is the coordinator of fundraising for the memorial.

A small dedication ceremony, in conjunction with a suitable event i.e.. Last Twilight Concert for the year at DFSM, will be held to mark the completion of the Basic Structure.

BAND CORPS MEMORIAL CONCEPT #1

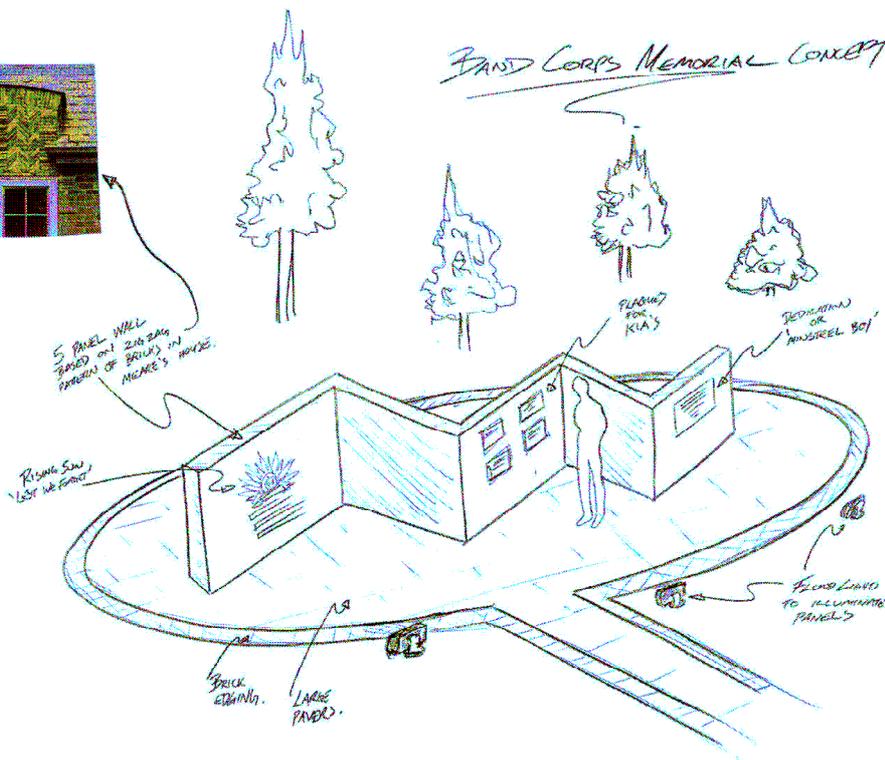


CONCEPT 1:

A traditional and formal representation. Brass plaque and lettering in recessed alcoves. Formal surrounds. Honours and Awards recipient's plaques set in paved border.



BAND CORPS MEMORIAL CONCEPT #2

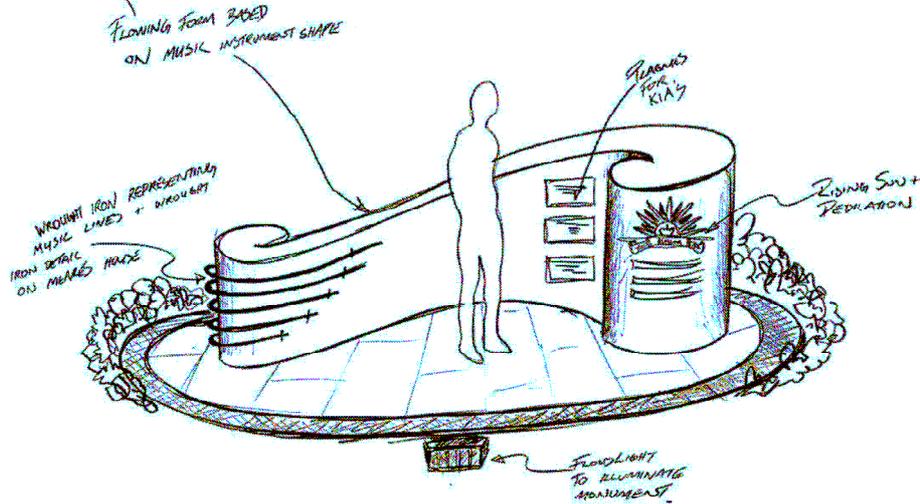


CONCEPT 2:

A modern design influenced by brick patterns in Meares House. The memorial wall is encompassed by a surround to symbolise the embrace of 2 hands. Floodlit on the 3 main panels. Interlocking walls (vacant) could be of wrought iron to link to the house.

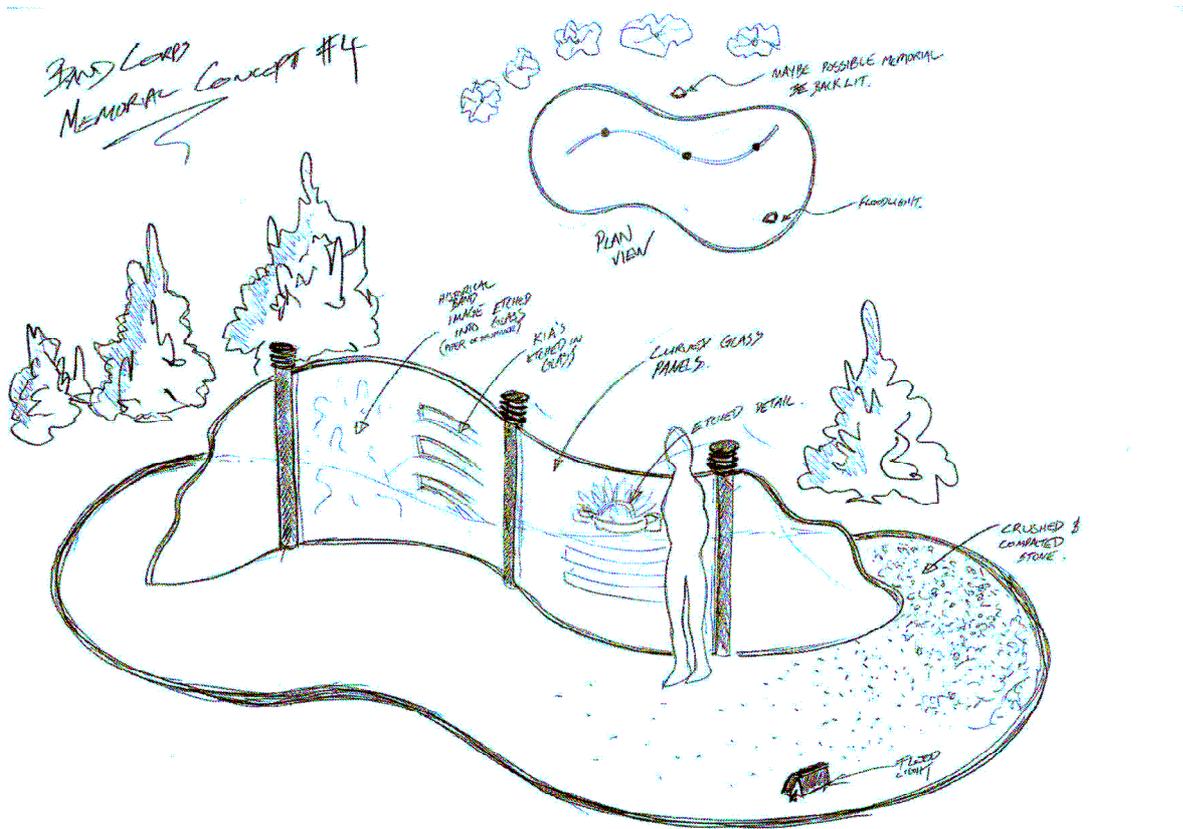
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BAND CORPS MEMORIAL CONCEPT #3



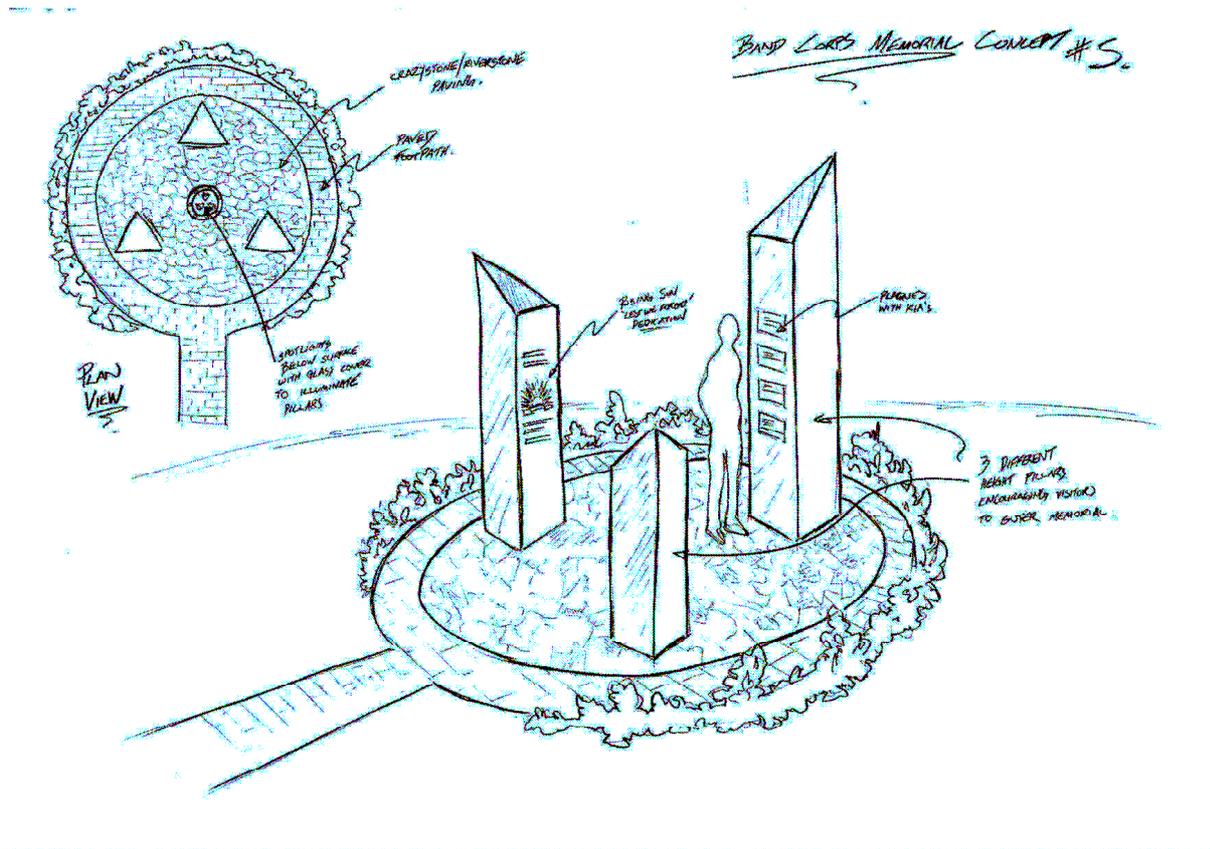
CONCEPT 3:

A free flowing artistic representation, distinctive yet formal. Strong links to musical symbols (F for forte & 5 lines of wrought iron to represent a staff). The material could be sandstone, polished granite, marble faced or rendered concrete.



CONCEPT 4:

A flowing design of clear to opaque glass with etched engravings or bolt on plaques. The shaped glass wall would be approximately 20 mm thick. The glass partitions would be supported by 3 pillars containing lights similar to the bollard style security lights in Meares House precinct.



CONCEPT 5:

This modern approach is built on the concept of an equilateral triangle. The 3 triangular pillars are of varying heights and tapered inwards at the top of the pillars. The pillars could be formed concrete columns faced with polished granite, marble or rendered. Alternatively, solid granite columns would be magnificent and very expensive. Formal bluestone or heritage brick encircle the compacted pebble hard-standing.

LIGHTING:

All concepts will be supported with an appropriate lighting design plan.