ESTABLISHING A TRADITION

The NSW Corrective Services Cenotaph, situated at the Department’s Academy at Brush Farm.
The Cenotaph Under guard, Remembrance Day 2007. The guards are members of the prestige NSW Corrective Services Honour Guard.
When facing the Cenotaph, the garden walls hold significant importance, on the right hand side adorns the names of officers of the Department who have passed since retiring from the Department.
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When facing the Cenotaph, the garden walls hold significant importance, on the left hand side adorns the names of officers of the Department who have passed since whilst still employed by the Department.
Sandstone.

Recovered from the wall of Parramatta Correctional Centre, which had been removed from the wall during the construction of the linen services in the early 1970’s, the sandstone was personally selected by Richard Battersby and the academy’s Senior Overseer John Hepburn.

Eight foundation sandstone blocks were selected as they had been hand crafted by convicts and marked accordingly, thus establishing our historical link with our ancestors, Parramatta Correctional Centre, at the time was the oldest operating New South Wales facility, construction commenced in 1839 and it open for operations in early 1843. The foundation stone was laid by Senior Overseer John Hepburn, Superintendent Richard Battersby and a unnamed prisoner on Wednesday 20th October, 1999 at approximately 11.05am.

Brickwork.

The common government general purpose brick was selected as it provided a strong supporting pre and post Federation historic link, as other correctional facilities would have been built from period government brickworks and will continue to be built from similar brick stocks in the future. The first brickwork course was laid on Monday 15th November, 1999.

Sculpture

The main sculpture includes (a) The Black Granite Stone, (b) The Raised Solid Bronzed Lions Heads (c) The Correctional Officer’s Service Cap with the lanyard with keys fanned out (d) The Jackson Lock.

Granite.

Black granite of high quality was sourced from South Australia, as no New South Wales granite came in the colour black or was of the appropriate quality. The colour black was selected as it is an acknowledgement of bereavement representing loss or passing. The black granite stone was laid on the day of the official remembrance ceremony, 1999.

Time Capsule.

Prior to sealing the top of the Cenotaph a time capsule was placed within the body of the Cenotaph, it was agreed by the originators that it should not be opened prior to 2049, but the then Commissioner of Corrective services can decree on or after the 2049 – ceremony being it’s fifty anniversary of the official unveiling of the monument, set a time for the time capsule to be recovered.
Resting directly below the sculpture are the bronzed name plaques of the officers that made the supreme sacrifice either killed on duty or died from injuries received whilst protecting the community of New South Wales.

The large centre plaque expresses the sentiment of all involved;

_The citizens and colleagues of a grateful state will forever honour the cherished memories of these Correctional Officers who in life loved, and we have forever lost. By displaying great courage, relentless discipline and steadfast dedication in their service to protect its citizens, paid so costly a sacrifice on the altar of justice and humanity._
Sculpture.

Raised bronzed based and each of the four corners solid bronzed lions head representing our tradition monarchy, the two crowned lions symbolic of His Majesty the King and the uncrowned symbolic of Her Majesty the Queen, as main gaols build during our colony, Federation and post World War 11 era had impressive sandstone lion head.

These four lion heads also represented a continuous service to the Cenotaph, looking in four direction ever vigilant, symbolic guarding of the Cenotaph.

The Correctional Officer’s Service cap, rest upright representing that an officer is down, extending from the hat is the lanyard attached with keys fanned out and the Jackson lock is open. The symbolic meaning behind the lanyard and keys related to traditional tools of our trade, keys represent life milestone along the lanyard representing live journey. The Jackson lock is symbolic of life itself, that the officer’s life was cut short taken from family and friends had no closure, left open.

The sculpture was set into the granite, by the makers Cunneen brothers. On the morning of the official remembrance ceremony, 1999

Plaques.

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The main Sculpture includes

(a) The Black Granite Stone
(b) The Raised Solid Bronzed Lions Heads
(c) The Correctional Officer’s Service Cap with Lanyard and Keys Fanned out.
(d) The Jackson Lock
The Search for Records.

As highlighted earlier, one of the significant issues related to the lack of department records that recorded officers killed on duty. The originators knew this was going to be a massive task. John Carruthers interviewed retired officer's, spoke to Superintendents whilst Richard Battersby searched the Mitchell Library archives, police files and microfilm records. Incredibly though discussion with the invoice clerk at Cunneen Brothers foundry, Richard, was informed that her husband’s great grandfather was a Prison Warder who died as a result of his injuries at Cootamunda Gaol on 29th June, 1908. This was an extraordinary coincidence, she was able to provide details for the family residing in Victoria.

John Carruthers was provided with the circumstance of Warden George Spink who was killed by a prisoner at Windsor Gaol on 31st May, 1869.

A very enormous and time consuming task, but very rewarding with information slowly being gathered. As the search proved to be difficult, it was decided to dedicate a memorial plaque that would remember those officers unknown and unnamed by the department who were killed or died as a result of injuries received on duty.

The Development of the Remembrance Ceremony.

As the Cenotaph construction was well and truly underway, the originators (Richard and John) attention focused on the development of the inaugural remembrance ceremony and the official unveiling of the Cenotaph. This required drawing upon sound and well established military traditions. The Corrective Services Honour Guard had been recently established, within their ranks was a former Army Sergeant Major, that being Correctional Officer Allan Townsend. Allan provided advice, including ceremony structure and sequence of events, this guidance and assistance provided in developing the initial ceremony was invaluable. We collectively went through each segment of the required drill movements, mindful of the traditional drill foundations but working towards introducing a Correctional focus with Departmental weapons drawn from the Central Armoury. Although the drill movements was reflective of our current military tradition but also of our past association with the First Fleet Royal Marines that were task with guarding and management of the convicts in 1788.

The Corrective Services Band provided insight into the music arrangements and timings. The music selected by the originators included traditional Hymns and melody, including – The Recessional, Hymn of St. Clement, Eternal Father, Waltzing Matildas and the National Anthem. The sequences of events following, including drill movements, were designed to be in keeping with original traditions establish 1649 at the execution of Charles 1, but selective changes were made to reflect the service of modern day corrections.
Reveille.

Reveille originated in medieval times, possibly around 1600, to wake soldiers at dawn. Rouse was the signal for the soldier to arise. Rouse is the bugle call more commonly used in conjunction with the Last Post and to the layman is often incorrectly called Reveille. Although associated with the Last Post, Reveille is rarely used because of its length.

General bugle calls for guests to attend and gather at the Cenotaph location and are seated.

Official Party.

Attend the Cenotaph

Catafalque Party.

Is a guard mounted around either the Cenotaph or catafalque on any of the following occasions. At a memorial or special occasion such as Corrective services Remembrance Day, and during a memorial service in a church for a recent deceased distinguished personage. A catafalque party consists of four sentries to be positioned at the corner of the Cenotaph, a waiting member in reserve and a commander. The Commander will “Slow March” on the Catafalque Party to take post around the four corners of monument. At the monument the Commander will direct Catafalque Party to “Rest on Arms Reserve” are an acknowledgement of the shame of killing, the reversal of the rifle barrel is a fitting sign of reverence. It was first used at the funeral of the Duke of Marlborough in 1722.

Unveiling.

The Honourable Minister for Department of Corrective Service John Debus and Deputy Commissioner Ron Woodham, official unveiled the Cenotaph plaques. The Commissioner Leo Keliher, step aside and requested that Ron Woodham undertake the unveiling as Mr. Woodham had lifelong service within the Department.

Official Address.

Addresses were made by the Minister Bob Debus, Commissioner Leo Keliher and Deputy Commissioner Ron Woodham.

Cenotaph Blessing.

The timeless tradition of proclaiming a site of remembrance as sacred required that the Cenotaph be blessed. The Department Chaplin, Father Harry Moore sanctified the Cenotaph.
Wreath Laying.

Flowers have traditionally been laid on graves and memorial in memory of the dead. Laurel was used as a symbol of honour, woven into a wreath by the ancient Romans to crown victors and the brave, recent traditions within Australia has adopted laurels and rosemary have been associated with ANZAC day. Rosemary is commonly associated with remembrance.

The Minister laid the official wreath on behave of the people on NSW. Departmental Senior Executive of behave of all staff and each family laid a wreath in remembrance of their loved ones. The Department considered it appropriate for any member of staff or from the community to also lay a single rose for personnel remembrance.

Presentations.

Each family was presented with a NSW Corrective Service flag, and each officer was posthumously awarded the Exemplary Conduct Cross.

Last Post.

In military tradition as part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as “tattoo” that had its origins in the 17th Century. Last Post is the last bugle call that signifies the end of the day’s activities. It is also sounded at military funerals and commemorative services such as Remembrance Day. The Last post is the final farewell, and symbolizes the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

This also enables the catafalque Party to return to the attention position in readiness to present arms – honouring those that had died in service, as the Last post is played and the National Flag lowered to half mast.

The Origin of “ The Last Post”

” The Last post” originated in medieval times, about the year 1622 and was known at the “Retreat”. It was usually played at 2200 hrs to call “the soldiers to retire for the night” at the end of the day. It then became custom over the years to play “The Last Post” at military funerals and commemorative functions where the closing sounds of the music sounds out the sad farewell to “Lights Out, Lights Out”
Sounding “Last Post”.

The Last Post is the trumpet or bugle call sounded in barracks and other military installations at 10.00pm each night to mark the end of the day’s activities. It is also sounded at military funerals and commemorative services to indicate that the soldier’s day has drawn to a final close. During the sounding of the Last Post all members in uniform are to stand to attention and salute. Armed parties are to be given the command to present arms. During the sounding of “The Last Post” all members in uniform are to stand to attention and salute.

The Ode.

“The ode” comes from the poem titled – For The Fallen, by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon, Poems of the Great War in 1914. The verse, which became the League Ode, was already used in association with Commemoration services in Australia. The ode is the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon’s poem ‘For The Fallen’

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.

   Lest we forget

“Lest we forget” is not a part of the poem, however it has become accepted practice to say it at the completion of the Ode.

Minute Silence.

Silence for one minute is included in the ceremony as a sign of respect. It offers a time for the reflection on the signification of the whole ceremony and to remember the fallen

Edward Honey, an Australian journalist living in London during the First World War, is credited with originating the idea. He published a letter in the evening News of 8th May, 1919 appealing for five minutes silence among the celebrations of the first anniversary of the Armistice- 11 November.

National Anthem.

Is played

Catafalque Party.

Dismounts its guard around the Cenotaph and marches off the monument site in quick time.
Official Party.

Everybody present is asked to stand, whilst the Official leave the Cenotaph area.

Closure.

Families are able to reflect upon their loved ones and mourn openly within the embrace of the wider Corrective Services community. It also enabled the Corrective Services as an organization to grieve providing closure for family and friends of the loved and for Corrective Officers past, present and future to reflect. It now has become a tradition that the Department of Corrective Service hosts a morning tea to honour our fallen comrades.

The Tradition was Established.

Protocol Officer John Carruthers in discussion with Ron Woodham, after his appointment as Commissioner for the Department decided that every year on the last Friday in November would be dedicated as the Remembrance Day, for Correctional Officers that made the supreme sacrifice whilst serving the State in protecting the community of New South Wales.
Commissioner Woodham in making this decree established a tradition, which linked the beginning of our colony which assisted in establishing the foundation of a State that helped build a Nation.

Both Officers have served the Department with Honour and Pride over many years

John Battersby BM served 20 years during which time he was Superintendent at The Corrective Services Academy prior to retiring as Superintendent of Windsor Correctional Centre

John Carruthers OAM served 35 years retiring as Governor of Parramatta Correctional Centre, then served some time as Protocol Officer for the Department.

*****
The two originators Richard Battersby BM (on the left) with John Carruthers OAM (on the right)

(a) Standing tall and with pride behind the Cenotaph
(b) Congratulating each other 'on a job well done'
The two originators Richard Battersby BM (on the left) with John Carruthers OAM (in the middle) no doubt pointing out some finer points to the Commissioner Mr. Peter Severin in regards to the Cenotaph.
This presentation was prepared by RCOA Executive Committee Member Jim O’Hearn OLO.

The photos were kindly supplied by Les Strzelecki – State Wide Manager of Museums.

The construction of the cenotaph was supervised by Senior Overseer John Hepburn.

Information was obtained from six articles that were published over a period of time in the RCOA Quarterly Newsletter; I thank the author very much.

Richard Battersby BM was presented with “The COMMISSIONER’S COMMENDATION” by the Commissioner Peter SEREVIN at the RCOA Thirty (30th) Anniversary Formal Dinner on 28th November, 2015.
This presentation was prepared by RCOA Executive Committee Member Jim O’Hearn OLO.

The photos were kindly supplied by Les Strzelecki – State Wide Manager of Museums.

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This Presentation was prepared by RCOA Executive Member Jim O'Hearn

The photos were kindly supplied by Les Strzelecki – State Wide Manager of Museums, Corrective Services, New South Wales.

The construction of the Cenotaph was supervised by Senior Overseer John Hepburn attached to the Corrective Services New South Wales, Academy, Brush Farm.

Information was obtained from six articles that were published over a period of time in the RCOA Quarterly Newsletter, I thank the author, very much.

This Booklet was presented to the NSW Corrective Services Academy at the Remembrance Day Service on the 27th November, 2015 being the 30th Anniversary of the RCOA.
Corrective Services New South Wales Retired Commissioned Officers Association:

Lauren Oliver  
Director  
CS NSW  
Academy  

Good Morning Lauren,

Please find enclosed a document which outlines the establishing of the cenotaph which respects the fallen and past Corrective Officers of New South Wales, it is a place where fellow Officers and Officers Families can come to pay their respects.

This document was presented to Commissioner P. Servin to consider awarding “The Commissioner’s Commendation” to Richard Battersby BM and John Carruthers OAM who in 1999 started the dream of “establishing a tradition” in regards to the cenotaph – the Commissioner awarded both Officers “The Commissioner’s Commendation” at the Association’s 30th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 28th November, 2015.

Our Association felt it was fitting and proper to present a copy of this document to the academy for their continued support of our Association.

Thank You  
Jim O’Hearn OLO  
for and behalf of the RCOA  
28th November, 2015