

# The War Memorial Oak



The first known memorial tree to be planted to acknowledge the beginning of hostilities in Europe, by an allied nation, anywhere in the world, is the English Oak planted in Creswell Gardens, Adelaide, South Australia on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1914, a mere 25 days after the declaration of war between the United Kingdom and Germany .

It was to be another 8 months before Australia's enlisted sailed off to Gallipoli. This Oak was planted by Sir Henry Galway, then Governor of South Australia.



<https://treenet.org/>



<https://avenuesofhonour.org/>

## The Legacy of a Living Memorial



War Memorial Oak progeny, for planting by Her Excellency Ms Gillian Bird, Australian Ambassador to France, at the British Military Cemetery of Etaples, on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022, coinciding with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King's Pilgrimage by King George V on 13th May 1922.





## War Memorial Oak:

Since 2009 TREENET has been collecting acorns from the War Memorial Oak to produce offspring of this oldest WW1 memorial tree, for planting in new or restored Avenues of Honour.

The first of these was planted on 11th November 2012 at Malvern Uniting Church, City of Unley, Adelaide.



March 2009



November 2012



April 2020

A second pedigree Oak - known as the Centenary War Memorial Oak, was planted on the 29th August 2014 within the Cresswell Gardens.



A major ceremony to replicate a similar event 100 years previous, involved various dignitaries and school students who helped to plant the special, commemorative, Centenary War Memorial Oak.

## the journey of the offspring



Acorns collected in 2019 were sent to France for propagation in a local French nursery, courtesy of Les Pépinières de France.



Image source: Remembering the Fallen <https://www.ww1cemeteries.com/etaples-military-cemetery>

Coinciding with a series of WW1 commemorations in 2022, the town of Etaples-sur-Mer has embraced the significance of the offspring of the War Memorial Oak.

These young living memorials will feature in the landscape of the Etaples Military Cemetery and other commemorative sites.

They honour the service, suffering and sacrifice of the Australian forces during WW1 in particular the 464 soldiers who are buried in this cemetery.

*We will remember them all.*