AVENUE OF HONOUR A cathedral-like canopy

On August 10, 1918, more than 1,000 people - most of the then population of Bacchus Marsh - gathered to plant an avenue of trees to honour locals who had served in the Great War. 282 Dutch Elms were planted - each tree representing an individual soldier. Bacchus Marsh Rd, Bacchus Marsh.

MEMORIAL PRECINCT A garden with memories

Sturt Street Gardens median strip contains war monuments, the earliest being the Boer War Memorial, raised ‘by patriotic fervour’ in 1906. A 1949 cenotaph remembers soldiers from both World Wars, with a recent addition of Victoria Cross recipient, William Dunstan. Park near the Town Hall, Ballarat.

RANGER BARRACKS Training the civilian militia

Built in 1885, in response to the Victorian Government’s reform of the colonial militia, Ranger Barracks was the largest of many orderly rooms (later called Drill Halls) throughout Victoria. The Ranger Barracks can be viewed from the outside. Cnr Curtis & Lowe St, Ballarat.

PRISONER OF WAR MEMORIAL Symbol of pain and suffering

Over 36,000 Australians became POWs during the 20th century - it is estimated 8,600 died in captivity. This memorial lists all known POWs. It is a place of reflection and the first Military Memorial of National Significance outside Canberra. Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Wendouree Parade, Ballarat.

BALLARAT AVIATION MUSEUM A rocket-powered fighter engine

Ballarat Aviation Museum contains artefacts that include a prototype swing-wing fighter, a Wirraway DH Dove, a Flying Flea, Kennedy Gyrocopter and many others. A rare item is the Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet, a German rocket-powered fighter aircraft. Airpor Access Rd, Ballarat Airport. Open weekends & public holidays 1-5.

100 places for 100 years - Victorian War Heritage Trails commemorates the Anzac Centenary. An App and a series of complementary brochures guide visitors to important war memorials across Victoria by way of eight tour routes from North-West Victoria to Central Melbourne to Gippsland.

The free App may be downloaded via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. The brochures and fold out maps detailing the eight tour routes may be downloaded at http://anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au

The Anzac Centenary provides an opportunity to acknowledge Australia’s contribution to war and the impacts it had on our nation. 100 places for 100 years enables us to reflect on Anzac traditions and consider the contribution of all Victorians. Between 2014 and 2018 Victoria will join global commemorations to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The superb Avenues of Honour and evocative memorials that mark this trail are indicative of the strength of community feeling and patriotism in the first half of the 20th Century.

Australians served in the Boer War as a national contingent for the first time, creating a strong identity and reputation as a formidable fighting force. This was reinforced at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. Each town, wanting to honour their service and sacrifice, created a memorial, added to in later years when other conflicts occurred. Ballarat, with both an Avenue of Honour and a Victory Arch created with funds raised by the ‘Lucas Girls’ - staff of the firm E. Lucas and Company - reflects the depth of feeling in the community.

The Western Trail also contains some interesting historical bylines: the Ranger Museum, for example, relating to civilian militia, and two Prisoner of War Memorials; one to all soldiers taken prisoner in theatres of war, the other, the Sandakan Memorial, to those who died in the grueling campaign in Borneo in WWII.

You may end your journey at the Memorial Cross atop Mt. Macedon; here, you are welcome to attend the Anzac Day dawn service. On a misty mountain morning, this is a truly moving experience.
The Ranger Museum focuses on Ballarat and district military history, particularly that of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

Cnr Ring Rd & Sturt Sts, Ballarat. Open Thu 14 & 4th Sunday of the month 9-12.

The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is the earliest and longest in Australia, covering 22 km and featuring 23 exotic species of trees. It is also egalitarian, recognising all ranks of service. The ‘Lucas Girls’ from a local clothing company raised £2,000 for the planting.

On completion of the Avenue, the ‘Lucas Girls’ raised funds for a commemorative entrance arch. Crowned by the Rising Sun, the symbol of the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces, it is an impressive sight.

Cnr Learmonth & Sturt Sts, Ballarat.

Stawell’s RSL Hall and Museum are housed in a town landmark, former home of butcher, farmer and goldmine investor, Edward Simmons. There are many original features including stained glass windows, and the gardens are expansive. Two rooms contain WWI and WWII memorabilia. The Museum is open Thu 1-4 & 4th Sunday of the month.

3 Scanlan St, Stawell.

This war memorial and cenotaph was dedicated in 2004 to honour and remember all who served in the Australian Defence Forces, ‘to defend justice or peace...’ Sawyer Park, enter via Memorial Dr, Horsham.

The Memorial Cross was dedicated in 1935 to those killed in action in WWI. It is a striking memorial. A dawn service is held at the Cross every Anzac Day. It’s size and simplicity, combined with its position atop Mt. Macedon, make it a striking memorial. A dawn service is held at the Cross every Anzac Day.

Mt Macedon Cross

A personal tribute

To those who lost their lives...