

## GLEN OROUA WAR MEMORIAL - 200 Sansons Road, Rongotea



**Architect/builder:** Not known

**Construction date:** 1921

**Visible materials:** Marble, concrete

**Architectural style:** Obelisk

**Use/building type:** Memorial

**Date and Compiler:** Ian Bowman, 2018

**Proposed ranking:** B

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY<sup>12</sup>

A *Manawatu Times* article of 7 April 1921 described the unveiling of the memorial, in which it noted that despite the district only being 9 square miles and thinly populated it nevertheless saw 29 of its men enlist to fight in the First World War. The memorial commemorates all those who fought on one plaque and another with the six names of those who died and is located in front of the Glen Oroua School. As with many memorials throughout New Zealand, the location was to alert future generations of the sacrifice of those who served in the war.

The memorial was unveiled on 6 April 1921 by local MP Mr E Newman in the presence of members of the community and school staff and pupils. Other dignitaries who spoke included Lt-Col. J H White,

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<sup>1</sup> Olsen, Peter, Doyle, Janet, *Communities Remember World War One, Memorials of the Manawatu District*, Janet Doyle, Feilding, 2015, page 30

<sup>2</sup> [https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/MT19210407.2.57?end\\_date=31-12-1930&phrase=0&query=Glen+Oroua+memorial+unveiling&start\\_date=01-01-1914&title=FS%2CHC%2CMH%2CMS%2CMT%2CRAMA%2CTAIDT%2CWC%2CWH%2CWOODEX](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/MT19210407.2.57?end_date=31-12-1930&phrase=0&query=Glen+Oroua+memorial+unveiling&start_date=01-01-1914&title=FS%2CHC%2CMH%2CMS%2CMT%2CRAMA%2CTAIDT%2CWC%2CWH%2CWOODEX)

DSO Chief of Staff Officer of the Wellington Military District, Rev B R White and Rev T Halliday. Mr B J Jacobs, president of the local branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association, was also in attendance.

The total cost of the memorial is unknown but the Dominion newspaper reported that £100 had been raised by 24 May 1919 for the erection of the memorial. It also reported that the Education Board had given its permission for the memorial to be built in the school grounds.

Plaques commemorating two who died in World War Two was added to the rear of the memorial.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The memorial comprises an obelisk with stepped and moulded marble pedestal. The plinth is of cement render lined out to imitate ashlar stonework and has four steps. The sides facing the school and the road have inscriptions.

The obelisk form originated in Egypt where it was considered to be a ray of sunlight made solid and that God existed within the structure. The word obelisk is Greek meaning a prong for roasting and indicated protection, defence and stability. With about one third of all WWI memorials based on the obelisk design, it was the most common design. Cenotaphs, gates and arches were the next most common. A number of memorials included marble human figures while domed cupolas and crosses were rare<sup>3</sup>.

The location of the memorial is in the Glen Oroua School grounds on Sansons Road. There are several houses opposite and the immediate surroundings are flat farmland.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUES

The war memorial has **low** to **high local** significance for **architectural, technological, rarity, representativeness, group, authenticity, people, event, pattern, cultural, public esteem, commemorative** and **education** values.

The memorial has **moderate architectural** and **technological** values as a good example of an obelisk-styled war memorial using common materials, style and symbolism of the period.

The memorial has **low rarity** but **high representativeness** and **group** values as one of many similar memorials erected throughout the region and New Zealand to remember those who died and those who served in both world wars.

The memorial has **high authenticity** as it has been retained on its site and has no major alterations.

The memorial has **high historic people, event, pattern and cultural identity, public esteem, commemorative** and **education** values as a war memorial commemorating those who died and those who served in both world wars and where memorial services have been held.

## SOURCES

### Printed Sources

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/memorials-and-monuments/page-4>

Olsen, Peter, & Doyle, Janet, *Communities Remember World War One: Memorials of the Manawatu District* (Feilding, 2014)

### Online Sources

Google Streetview: [www.google.co.nz](http://www.google.co.nz) (as per footnote)

Papers Past: <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

Glen Oroua war memorial: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/glen-oroua-war-memorial>

### Photographs



Figure 1: Glen Oroua War Memorial, R Waugh, 30 October 2022.