

Sacrifice remembered

Edgar Wade Holmes enlisted for World War I at the age of 34. Born the son of Elizabeth Corner and Edwin Holmes in 1884, he was a bachelor when he went to serve his country.

He did not return. He was killed only six months before the war ended.

While his death meant the end for his branch of the family, Bolwarra's John and Elaine Holmes carry his memory. Edgar was the cousin of Mr Holmes' grandfather.

The restoration and rededication of the memorial means that although there are no direct descendants to carry the lineage, Edgar's sacrifice is remembered.

BRIONY SNEDDEN reports.

A memorial to the fallen soldiers of Bolwarra will again take pride of place in the suburb. The Bolwarra War Memorial, a remembrance to those who died in World War I, was rededicated in a moving ceremony led by Maitland RSL sub-Branch president Eric Bell JP yesterday at its new home in Westbourne Road.

The memorial was plagued by controversy in past years because of its restoration and relocation to a safer site by Maitland City Council.

It was at the centre of a car accident when it was located on the corner of Maitland and Paterson roads, Bolwarra, in 1957, which instigated its removal to Westbourne Street - but remained an obstacle to cars.

The generosity of the O'Brien family, owners of Shemstone in Westbourne Street, as well as a \$4000 Department of Veteran Affairs' grant, saw the memorial restored and moved onto the historic Shemstone property.

As Maitland Mayor Peter Blackmore and Maitland MP Frank Terenzini laid wreaths at the site, the focus returned to the memorial's original purpose: as a tribute to the fallen.

Ex-servicemen and women, Bolwarra residents and the community were invited to attend yesterday's ceremony.

Cr Blackmore said the memorial was paid for with funds raised by the community.

"It is a permanent remembrance of the area's sacrifice and contribution to World War I," he said.

"It also provided Bolwarra with a public landmark both in its former and its present location."



LEST WE FORGET: Bolwarra residents John and Elaine Holmes whose relative Edgar Holmes' name appears on the memorial.

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