



Brisbane Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial Information Paper

The Queensland Government is working with Brisbane's Consul to the Netherlands, Captain Kasper Kuiper R.O.N on the relocation of the existing Brisbane Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial.

The current memorial located in the Brisbane CBD, which acknowledges the service of men and women from the Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies who supported Australia during the Second World War, has been in place since 4 May 2004.

The Netherlands Memorial is in a part of underutilised precinct that is soon to be redeveloped for the \$3B Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development. Construction for the Integrated Resort Development is to start from January 2017 and take until 2022.

As a result, the Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial, along with a series of other memorials and statues in the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct, is to be relocated.

The Queensland Government's Department of State Development is working with the Brisbane City Council to design and build a new Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial to be sited high in the Roma Street Parkland. The Parkland is one of Brisbane's premier parks and considered to be one of the two best examples of contemporary display gardens in Australia.

A new area is being developed within the Parkland with a small number of similar memorials to share a special and quiet corner of this renowned park overlooking the city of Brisbane. The new location is an ideal quiet place of reflection.



Brisbane Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial, cnr George and Margaret Streets, Brisbane



Captain Kasper Kuiper, Honorary Consul of the Netherlands at the Remembrance Day on 4 May 2016



Roma Street Parkland, the proposed location for the Brisbane Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial

The intention of the reshaped new Parkland memorial area is to be a more appropriate community gathering place and to be more user-friendly.

The relocated Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies Memorial will adjoin memorials acknowledging; the Battle for Tobruk, mutual respect for the Turkish involvement in the ill-fated Anzac campaign and the Australian Vietnamese Memorial signifying the unity between the two forces in that conflict.

Roma Street Parkland will be the new gathering place for the Queensland branch of the Netherlands Ex-Servicemen and Women Association's three annual events – namely the; 27 February "Battle of the Java Sea", 4 May "Remembrance Day (Dodenderdenking)" and 15 August "Netherlands Australia Memorial" commemoration celebrations.

The current Memorial, includes seven small plaques for the Dutch units involved and also reinforces on-going acknowledgement of the significant contribution the Dutch played in World War II in the South-West Pacific, especially in Brisbane.

This was best evidenced by the "NEI government-in-exile" being established at "Camp Columbia", at Wacol, just west of Brisbane in mid-1944.

The Camp was built by the Australian government in 1942 for the large numbers of United States troops arriving in Australia. It became home to more than 2,000 personnel, both military and civil, and it remained a most important Dutch base until the end of the WWII.

The traditions of the three annual commemorations held at the current Memorial are planned to continue at the Parklands beginning in February 2017 at the new Memorial once built, hopefully, later in the year.

In the meantime Captain Kuiper, the State Government and the Brisbane City Council will continue to refine and confirm memorial design and placement planning.

