

**6/4/09**

## **Elmwood School War Memorial**

Parents will have noticed the War Memorial that is located in the corner of the school grounds at the intersection of Allister Avenue and Leinster Road. Engraved in marble panels on the four sides are the names of 157 Elmwood boys who served in the Great War 1914-18, some of whom distinguished themselves in battle and were awarded military decorations, while others died in service to their country. A commemorative plaque reads "*Erected to the memory of the Elmwood boys who served the Empire in the Great War 1914-18*". An additional plaque indicates that the memorial was unveiled by the Minister of Education on 26 February 1921.

The memorial was restored in 1995 by the Merivale Precinct Society, and was again restored in 2007 after vandalism damage destroyed two of the panels.

This particular memorial has special importance because it was the first war memorial sculpted by William Trethewey. Trethewey was a very popular New Zealand public sculptor between the two world wars and was also responsible for the distinguished war memorial in Cathedral Square.

Educating children about our past is an important part of learning at school. Preserving our heritage involves exposure to stories of the past, sharing traditions and putting meaning to our history, historical places and those monuments that have been erected as reminders of the past. It is the sharing of our heritage that provides for the children a valuable insight into the contributions made by those generations before us. Through our studies at school we can celebrate such contributions and recognise the impact of the past and how this has shaped the way we live today. Further, such studies can be used to inspire our children of today towards making their own contribution to our country's future. With the public holiday for Anzac Day on April 25, it seems appropriate that the school provides education for the children about the significance of the occasion. Anzac Day does remind us of a very important part of New Zealand's history.

The Commemoration Ceremony will be held at the Memorial on 8 April at 2pm and will involve Y4-6 children. The president of Christchurch RSA, Russell Barron has agreed to give the address. The Ceremony will involve:

Principal's welcome  
Russell Barron (President RSA)  
Junior children to bring a flower for memorial.  
Last post played on trumpet  
Singing a traditional song

Parents are very welcome to attend.

Kevin Gooch  
Principal