



Canon Garland Memorial Society Incorporated

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A stepping stone to engaging community spirit

Our free “*Remembrance Day Family Concert*” last Friday evening, 11 November 2016 — on the lawns of Kangaroo Point Cliffs Park in front of *Canon Garland Memorial – ANZAC Day Origins* — was truly fantastic.

The setting was serene as the sun went down, and as the lights went up, the impromptu stage had beautiful St Mary’s Anglican Church as a backdrop. The Memorial itself stood out: central and proud. Then the twinkling myriad of Brisbane City lights came into their own.

The performers were outstanding with their renditions of music from the early days mixed with songs of a community at war and joyous with the peace that followed. The Reverend Canon David John Garland, who once lived just up the road in River Terrace, Kangaroo Point, would have been proud of this inaugural event.

Extracts from a letter written by Canon Garland in *The Church Standard* of 12 December 1919, shortly after his return from serving as a military chaplain in the Middle East, express how the privilege of living together in a peaceful and harmonious community was so hard-won and will forever remain a legacy worth defending and celebrating:

“The other day I blessed one boy (in hospital) who has been 24 months on his back. I felt that he ought to be giving me the blessing; it is such men who have suffered that the world might be redeemed. In them, I over and over see...the sacrifice that we might live and all this is true in varying degrees of everyone who went to war, fought and endured and suffered for us. Everyone who helps by giving time...is repaying, in some small way, the immense debt which the whole community is under, to our boys...”

With sincere thanks to all our supporters — especially Gabba Ward Councillor, Jonathan Sri, the Woolloongabba Business Association, St Mary’s Anglican Parish and Brisbane City Council, but especially the fabulous entertainers who lent their talents free-of-charge — Canon Garland Memorial Society Incorporated has reason now to hope that this event just might be the start of an enduring tradition. Pioneer-spirited local community audience members turned up and went away delighted that they did.

As Councillor Sri’s message — that opened our Concert — said so elegantly, we have new hope that the future of our “*Remembrance Day Family Concert*” is bright:

“I encourage you to treat tonight not just as a night of free entertainment, but as a chance to meet your neighbours and connect with other members of the community. When there’s a break in entertainment, take a moment to say ‘hi’ to the people sitting around you and maybe strike up a conversation. Surely one of the most important messages of tonight’s event is that we’re all in this together, and we need to look out for one another.”

Circle 11 November on your 2017 calendar and we will keep you posted about arrangements for our next “*Remembrance Day Family Concert*”.

— ROSS HIELSCHER
Vice-President, Canon Garland Memorial Society Incorporated
16 November 2016

