St Leo’s honours its finest

A NEW Anzac memorial garden at St Leo’s College in Wacol has been dedicated to a former student who died in Vietnam in 1967. Bryan Thomas Cullen died from wounds he received in action while serving in North Vietnam, with the 7th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment. He was 20.

For many years his photo hung in the St Leo’s College chapel, but little was known about him.

On Friday, his sister Jill Finsham and her family travelled from Toowoomba for the opening ceremony of the garden and lay a wreath in his memory.

She said her brother was a regular young man who loved his family and his country.

The garden, also a tribute to all men and women who have served in the armed forces, was blessed by Bishop David Walker of the Diocese of Broken Bay. Students who are also members of army and air force cadet units attended, as well as past students now in the defence forces.

Cadet Nathan Elliott sounded The Last Post on the bugle his great-grandfather had used at the Western Front in World War I. School principal Anthony Glueven said: “We hope that each time our students pass by their garden they reflect on the Anzac tradition – the ideals of courage, endurance and mateship. We hope that they take pride in their garden as a special place for our Diggers to be remembered, and that from time to time they give thanks for those who gave so much.”

Long-term college employee Laurie Tilfr came up with the idea for the garden, which was designed and built by St Leo’s senior construction students with teacher Chris Summert.