AN ACADEMIC is on a mission to preserve the beauty and importance of the stained glass windows at The Armidale School.

Bronwyn Hughes visited the school to photograph its stain windows for a book she is working on.

The windows are notable for being created by Napier Waller who was famous for his work on the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial.

Dr Hughes said the windows were a hidden treasure of the region.

"Hardly anyone knows about it beyond anyone in Armidale and The Armidale School is absolutely enamoured with it," she said.

"It doesn't get into the body of knowledge of Waller."

The memorial at TAS was pushed by the school's Old Boy Union that solicited donations for the project.

Ultimately the school also contributed funds and the memorial hall was officially opened in 1957, with the stained glass windows being unveiled in 1961. Dr Hughes said commemorative windows, such as the ones at TAS, were a seldom understood artform. "Plenty of people have studied the stone monuments to war veterans but no one's looked at the history of stain glass windows," she said.

Stain glass windows and how they have changed over time showed some of the cultural changes in Australia.

Dr Hughes pointed out St George shows up less in stain glass windows created after the First World War while soldiers begin to appear a lot more.

INSPIRED: Bronwyn Hughes visits The Armidale School's stain glass windows. Story, Photo: LUCAS FORBES