

FOSMA 37

## Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc.

### Newsletter Issue 37: May 2008

#### Highlights

Updates August List  
Lt Morton Allport

#### Dates to remember

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch, Drysdale House August 1<sup>st</sup> Noon  
Dedication Ceremony, 3 August 2008, 11am



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#### President's Report

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It was wonderful to see so many people attend the April dedications, and combining the event with the official launch of the Green Corps project made the day even more special. Thanks to all those who helped to make the day run smoothly.

After completing all our activities for Anzac Day, we are now totally focussed on the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony in August. Research is now underway for the 50 or so plaques to be dedicated and we are advertising in the media shortly to seek out more descendants. So if you know of anyone who may be related to the listing of soldiers in this newsletter, please get in touch with them or pass on their details to the committee so we can make contact.

The August event is going to be a major organisational effort for FOSMA, as we are expecting a large turnout. The Governor has agreed to lead the dedications ceremony and we are hoping for a strong turnout from the ADF as well as service organisations, schools and related groups. **We would appreciate any offers of help from members of the group, particularly on the day as marshals, canteen staff and general helpers. If you can help in any way please let me know as soon as possible.**

More details on the event will be coming out regularly from now on.

John Wadsley

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#### Anzac Dedications Ceremony and Displays

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As part of the ANZAC week commemorations, a dedication of 17 plaques was held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April at the newly developed Crossroads end of the Soldiers Memorial Avenue. Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather and a great attendance with invited guests, school groups, friends, descendants and the media.

*Left: Lord Mayor Rob Valentine gives his address.*



The dedications were preceded by the official launch of the Green Corps/HCC restoration project covering the Crossroads Oval section of the Avenue. The General Manager of Green Corps, Mr Steve Hayes and the Chairperson of CVGT Employment and Training, Ms Ann Jones, along with Duncan Kerr MP SC representing the Commonwealth Government and the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Ald Rob Valentine all gave speeches to officially launch this project, which is already well underway and looking fantastic. A highlight of the launch was the introduction of each Green Corps team member and their leader David Mason. They are certainly an enthusiastic group of people and we are very pleased to have them working on the restoration project with the Council and FOSMA.

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The dedication of plaques was led by the Lord Mayor. Green Corps participants, families, dignitaries and students from New Town primary schools unveiled the plaques which have been funded by a grant through our major sponsor The Tassal Group, as well as donations Hobart Masonic Club, Claremont RSL Women's Auxiliary and individual families. There was some excellent media coverage of the event, which has served to heighten interest in the project leading up to the major August dedications ceremony.

Over the Anzac Day long-weekend, we held another display at the Gunpowder Magazine. This was well attended over the three days with a steady stream of visitors. Many thanks to Andrea and Ron Gerrard, John Trethewey, Helen Hartley and Peter Pickering for setting up the display and working some long hours to "man the barricades". Thanks also to Adrian Howard who led a team of TAFE students taking tours along the Avenue on Anzac Day.

*Left: Green Corps participants at the launch.*



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## Lt Morton Allport

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One of the puzzles on the Avenue was the number of trees for which there was no surviving record of to whom it was dedicated – the map of the 1930 lists 'unknown' and 'unclear' against some trees, as well as having double entries. A survey of the Hobart Town Honour Board revealed more names than there were 'vacant trees'. As part of the restoration, some additional trees are being allocated to these men – the qualification strictly being the appearance of the name on that Honour Board. One of the strangest apparent omissions was the absence of a tree for Lt Morton Allport.

From the established Hobart family, Morton worked at Dobson, Mitchell & Allport undertaking his articles. He was the eldest child of Cecil and Annie Allport, and brother to Eileen and Henry. and a well known and proficient golfer and was engaged to Phyllis Downie. Morton was a close friend of William Crowther (later to be OC 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and Medical Officer for the 4<sup>th</sup> Division) who wrote after the war that Morton had delayed enlistment because he wanted a commission and to do something that made a difference. In 1915 the Overseas League appealed for donations of and for aircraft for the Royal Flying Corps and Tasmania answered by donating an aircraft. At the time, a condition was also proposed that it be given on condition that a Tasmanian would be accepted for pilot training. Morton Allport was recommended for that training and accepted by the War Office in late August, and left Hobart for England on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1915 reporting for duty at the Wireless and Observers School on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

*Go? Agent General for Tas.  
56 Victoria Street  
London SW  
18<sup>th</sup> Decr 1915.*

*My dear Grannie*

*I expect that Father gives you some of my news in his weekly letters but I know that you will like to hear direct from me & to learn how I am getting on. I reported at the War Office the day after I arrived in England and after several interviews I was ordered to report at Brooklands on 1<sup>st</sup> December. On doing so I found what my duties consisted of and as I have now been here nearly three weeks I have quite settled down. I found that I have to be at the Aerodrome every morning at 9 a.m. and from then until 5 p.m. I am under military discipline but the rest of the day is free. I have to board myself and I was exceedingly fortunate in*

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finding most suitable quarters only 10 minutes walk from the aerodrome in a little sunny village called Byfleet. Here I am very comfortable and my landlady treats me very well indeed considering that I am paying her only £1 per week I have a nice large Bedroom and sitting room to myself in which I have my meals and there is always a fire so I am quite happy and comfortable. The weather has been wintery and it is only occasionally that we get any flying so up to the present I have only been five times in the air and total of some 50 minutes. The instructor told me that I was making satisfactory progress though and I expect I shall be allowed to make my first flight alone in about a fortnight provided of course that the weather is favourable. I have seen Aunt Lily several times and she has been very kind to me – taking me about and directing me & helping me in numberless little ways. She has got an invitation for me to spend a day or two at Xmas with Lady Morish where she says I shall have the opportunity of seeing what every Colonial dreams of someday seeing – a real English Xmas in a real English home. Subject to being able to obtain the necessary leave I have accepted and trust that I shall not be disappointed by stoppage of leave or anything like that. Charlie Ritchie & his wife have also been very good to me and put me up for some days before I came down here.



Morton's Pilot's Certificate - numbered 2503

I have seen several places of interest in London but I think that everything must be much quieter than on the pre war days and every other man one meets is in Karki [sic] I personally am at present not permitted to wear uniform but I expect to be Gazetted as a second Lieut on probation almost any day now and of course directly I am Gazetted I shall set about getting my uniform.

The country round Byfleet must be very beautiful in the spring time. There are numbers of big English trees everywhere and the hedges are mostly holly and they are now covered with berries. Near by there is a canal with trees all along its banks and it must be beautiful there in the spring.

There is little more than I can tell you except that I am quiet well – in fact I think I am putting on weight. Give my love to Aunt Mary and much to yourself

from

Your affectionate Grandson

Morton



At the time of writing the letter, Morton's commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant had been granted though not gazetted. His pilot's certificate from the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom is dated from 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 1916 with an RFC Flying Certificate from 7<sup>th</sup> March. His flying rank was confirmed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1916 and he was, with some transfers, finally posted to 70 Squadron on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916. His flying log shows that by 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916 he had a total of 35hrs 59mins with 27hrs 20 mins being solo. Most of these flying were less than an hour.

The last received by his family spoke of his time in France and the

*France*

*Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1916*

*Dear old Dad*

*The last letters from home brought the news that you & mother had returned from your trip to Brisbane & that the change had benefited you. I was also glad to hear that Hen was progressing satisfactorily, & trust that his ear is quite alright again. Anyway he's in good hands with Aileen. You will of course have heard all my news for since I arrived in France I have been able to write nearly every day to some of the people at home. I*

*never see a London paper so know nothing of Australian mails so my letters must take their chance. I have written to Charlie Ritchie asking him send me papers sometimes but it takes at least a week to get an answer from England. I am still perfectly well and am not by any means over worked for unless we are actually required to do a job we are left pretty much to ourselves. Clear weather is essential in the type of areas work I have to do so on cloudy & wet days we have a soft time. Yesterday morning early I was on the first job we have had for some days. We started early and crossed the lines & went right up to the borders of Belgium and had a good look round & then beetled back here getting back a little after ten. It was a beautiful morning & I quite enjoyed it for we were not interfered with at all and consequently were able to get the information required with a minimum of trouble Today it is again dull and there is at the present time rain falling so I expect there will be nothing doing again today. Of course as the winter comes on here will be less & less to do.*

*Of course I cannot give you any information about the war other than what you yourself see in the papers. Its going to last sometime yet though. I feel sure and although the tide has turned and we are doing well the Germans are going to take a lot of shifting from the portion of France they now occupy. One doesn't realize the area of this until one actually sees it as I have done. The towns & villages in German occupation look alright from the air and appear quite normal. The fields are cropped & in fact there is little if any difference to be noted between this part of France and the provinces this side of the line. It is only when one comes near the line itself that the country consumes a different aspect. Here ruined villages trenches & huge crater holes mark the line and the whole country over where the big push has taken place is the colour of yellow clay. Where there had been woods there are now only a few sticks of trees & the country looks for want of a better simile for all the world like a Chinaman's face marked with small pox for the shells have ploughed up the earth & left no spot untouched. The guns never ease but I am never able to hear them when flying I only see the flashes.*

*Near to where we are there is a German prisoners camp. They are employed on road work.*

*I see that the Daylight Saving Act is now in operation in Tasmania. It's a fine thing.*

*Well there is nothing more now so I will close. Give my love to all at home and remember me to uncle Tom when you see him next also Teddy Webster & my other old good Club friends.*

*Yours affectionately*

*Morton*

It is believed that Morton was shot down by the Flying Circus led by the Red Baron, von Richthofen. He was initially posted as missing, with death assumed as his plane failed to report in.

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## Notes on the Crossroads

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The Crossroads Oval has a complex history. The first proposal for a new oval on the Domain came in 1950 but due to lack of funds and the high cost was not proceeded with. In 1955, the headmaster of Hobart High School again proposed an oval be constructed and negotiations with the Education Department began but again the proposal lapsed due to cost. In 1959 work is undertaken for an archery range at the Crossroads next to the Avenue. Late in the year, the proposal for an Oval is revived with the focus on the Domain Quarry but the conversion cost is too high and the idea of a Crossroads Oval is revived.

Plans were drawn up with condition of any development that “the Soldiers’ Memorial trees were not to be interfered with”. When it appeared that the Education Department would commit substantial funds to the project, engineering plans were commissioned that included options not only for a small oval but also included plans for a larger one, which would intrude into the Avenue footprint. A small deposit was apparently paid as part of the Education Dept contribution.

In early May 1960, members of the Reserves Committee met the committee of the Hobart Sub-branch of the RSL on site to discuss the alternative layouts and the possible removal of some trees – removal was agreed to. Negotiations between the HCC and Ed Dept began on sharing the cost and access rights to the oval and continued into the next year.

The situation changed with the suggestion in State Parliament in August 1961 that parts of the Domain could be used as a tip – terracing the eastern side to provide views to the Tasman Bridge, fill-in on the Derwent to provide new areas for the Botanical Gardens. There was definitely a need – the New Town tip was nearing the end of its life and a proposal for a tip in Pottery Rd, Lenah Valley had been dropped in this election year due to strong local protest. Within days, the HCC announced its attention to seek the approval of the Director of Public Health for a ‘short-term garbage tip’ on the Queens Domain. The advantages of the site were extolled especially the ‘quick return in the way of playing fields’.

The public response was immediate and negative in Letters to the Editor with a number noting the increasing alienation of the Domain. This proposal followed that for the Olympic Pool, the Tennis Centre and the plan for the new highway along the base of the Domain. Nigel Abbott, later to be Minister for Road Safety in the Liberal-Centre coalition government from 1969, wrote the following.

### ***Neglect of war memorial***

*Neglect of the First World War memorial on the Domain is emphasised by the proposal to establish a tip at the northern end of the memorial.*

*The memorial consist of four rows of pine trees [sic] bordering path from the Cenotaph to the cross roads.*

*Around the base of each tree is a small chain supporting a metal disc inscribed with the name of a Tasmanian soldier who was killed in action or who died in the war. So long is it since these memorial trees received any care that wattle trees grow entwined with some of them and are taller than they.*

*Conversion of the northern end of the memorial to a rubbish tip, for however short a time, would be a disfigurement, an act beyond neglect.*

*Acceptance of the attractively easy solution of the cross roads as the site for a tip disregards the fact that the tip is to be temporary. Why not decide on and establish the permanent site now? The City Engineer has been overseas some time investigating rubbish disposal and should be able to recommend a site and method.*

*N D Abbott*

The council announced on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1961, “First World War memorial trees on the Domain will be replaced with full agreement of the R.S.L. if the Hobart City Council constructs a tip in the area.” An on-site meeting was arranged resulting in agreement between the HCC and the Hobart sub-branch of the R.S.L. to replace the trees and that “plaques which had been on the old trees are in storage and would be replaced in the avenue when the new trees had developed further.”

It was further agreed that

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*“when the tip was filled and a sports arena had been constructed the trees would be replaced and planted around the ground, Mr. Blacklow said.*

*Plaques would be refitted and the arena named the Memorial Sports Ground. The R.S.L. committee reported that aldermen, particularly the Deputy Lord Mayor (Ald Chesterman) were most co-operative and helpful. The committee was quite satisfied that when the whole project was completed it would be a vast improvement, Mr. Blacklow said.” (The Mercury 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1961 p22)*

By this time, the original understanding between the Education Department and Council had come to an end – from the Education Department’s point of view, the cost of the larger scheme was too great and from the Council perspective, the demand for use too much in comparison with the contribution. It was also found at this time that the Education Dept deposit had not actually been paid.

The tip went ahead and was closed in November 1963. It was not until 1966 that the Oval actually opened as there were not sufficient funds firstly to level and then dress and sow the new area. In December 1965 the RSL reminded the HCC of its undertakings. The Superintendent of Reserves noted that the Oval should be called the Memorial Oval with a sign to be erected when the oval was well established in 1966.

In 2004 the Hobart City Council endorsed a management plan for the Avenue after long discussions with FOSMA. It included the recommendation that the trees be replanted around the Oval which should be renamed the Soldiers Memorial Oval.

That is all now coming to pass and thanks are due to the Hobart City Council, the Tasmanian Community Fund and CVGT-Green Corps. The restoration is well underway with the perimeter path and fence installed, 10 of the new plinths in place and the construction of the stairs from the Avenue proper up to the oval well underway.

At the Council Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> May the Council was to consider a motion, on the recommendation of the Parks and Customer Services Committee 15<sup>th</sup> May, to rename Domain Crossroads East Oval to the Soldiers Memorial Avenue with the change of name to take effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008.

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## Final List for August Dedications

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There have been some minor amendments to the August list – new trees will now to be listed with the prefix H to signify mention on the Hobart Honour Board and/or clearly established Hobart connection. 2 trees will be planted to replace trees lost at the southern end of the Avenue (R22 and R23). There has been a substitute for a name among the new trees and a slight reordering in the list. Descendants should contact FOSMA by 15<sup>th</sup> June.

- 416 Pte Charles William Thomas Gray 12th Bn Killed in Action Boursies 15/4/1917
- 417 Spr John Shadrick Pace 15th Field Co Aust Engineers Killed in Action, Corbie 10/4/1918
- 420 Pte George Ernest Atkins 12th Bn Killed in Action Pozieres 19/8/1916
- 421 Pte Arthur Fleming 12th Bn Killed in Action, Polygon Wood 6/10/1917
- 424 Pte Hugh Wallace 26th Bn Killed in Action 7/10/1917
- 425 Sgt Leslie Thomas George Chambers 12th Bn Killed in Action 3/11/1917
- 427 Fireman Ernest Drake SS Boorara Killed at sea 20/3/1918
- 428 Pte William Henry Whelan 26th Bn Killed in Action 16/12/1917
- 429 Pte Adrian Edmund Husband 7th Field Ambulance Died Hobart 12/7/1916
- 430 Capt Ivor Stephen Margetts 12th Bn Killed in Action, Pozieres 24/7/1916
- 431 Spr Thomas William Albury 6th Field Coy Killed in Action 9/4/1918
- 432 Pte Albert Edward Talbot 26th Bn Killed in Action Pozieres 29/7/1916
- 433 2/Lt Charles Stephen Fuller No1 Squadron, RFC Killed in action 11/11/1917
- 434 Lt Arnold Talbot Wertheimer 12th Bn Killed in Action 04/06/1918
- 435 Pte Hughie McDonough 12th Bn Killed in Action 25/8/1918
- 437 Cpl Stanley Robert Carrick 12th Bn Killed in Action 10/5/1918
- 439 Lt Ben Vaughan 12th Bn Killed in Action 21/4/1918
- 441 Gnr Vernon Alfred Batchelor 4th Bde AFA Killed in Action 4/10/1917
- 443 Sgt Vernon Hepburn Drake 30th Bn Killed in Action 22/6/1918
- 445 Pte Albert Victor Larsen 12th Bn Killed in Action 28/05/1918
- 447 Pte Harold Horace Kennedy 51st Bn Killed in Action 24/4/1918
- 449 Pte Herbert Latham 46th Bn Killed in Action 14/2/1917
- 451 Pte Eric Samuel Kenshole 12th Bn Killed in Action 24/7/1916
- 453 Tpr Charles Ribbon NZ Mounted Machine Gun Squadron NZEF Died of wounds 17/3/1917

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455 Pte Albert Cartledge 4th Pioneer Bn Died of wounds 6/7/1918  
457 Tpr Henry Dundas Bashfield 3rd Light Horse Died of wounds 24/4/1917  
459 Gnr Archibald Neville Scollick 5th Bde AFA Died of wounds 20/4/1917  
461 Sgt Donald Trevlyn Hood 2nd Australian Division HQ Killed in Action 29/10/1917  
463 2/Lt Edward Huon Atkinson 12th Light Horse Died of war injuries 23/7/1918  
465 Pte Frank King 15th Bn Killed in Action 2/5/1915  
467 Sgt Hector Charles Long 40th Bn Killed in Action 28/3/1918  
469 Pte William Cuthbert Hawkins 26th Bn Killed in Action 29/7/1916  
471 Pte Roger (Third) Marshall AIBD Died of sickness Hobart Hospital 5/5/1916  
473 L/Cpl Clement Woolley 52nd Bn Killed in Action 4/9/1916  
475 Pte Arthur Wright 12th Bn Killed in Action 3/11/1917  
477 Lt Samuel Alexander McInnes 40th Bn Killed in action 1/2/1917  
479 Pte Archie Walter Owen 12th Bn Died of wounds 23/7/1918  
481 L/Cpl Norman Wilfred Allison 12<sup>th</sup> Bn DOW 3/2/1918  
483 Capt Gilbert Thurgate Lovett 8th Bn Killed in Action 1/8/1918  
H4 Pte Richard Samuel Wiggins 12th Bn Died of Sickness 5/7/1916  
H5 Corporal Claude Henry Burslem 15th Bn Killed in action 8/8/1916  
H6 Private John Stanley Cox 26th Bn Killed in action 5/11/1916  
H7 2nd Lieut Morton Allport 70th Squadron RFC Killed in action 10/11/1916  
H8 Private Percy Edward Reed 12th Bn Killed in action 6/4/1917  
H9 Private Thomas Joseph Beard 12th Bn Killed in action 15/4/1917  
H10 Private Claude Arthur Butler 12th Bn Died of sickness 26/7/1917  
H11 Corporal Charles Frederick Sharpe 2nd Bde AFA Killed in action 22/8/1917  
H12 Private William John Hathaway 40th Bn Killed in action 13/10/1917  
H13 Private Lewis William Mazey 40th Bn Killed in action 13/10/1917  
H14 Private Percy Robert Greenland 40<sup>th</sup> Bn Killed in action 17/7/1918  
R22 Pte Arthur Gordon Gibson 12<sup>th</sup> Bn Killed in action 2/5/1915  
R23 Lt Herbert Patrick Hare 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde AFA Died of wounds 8/8/1916

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## 90th Anniversary Lunch

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An anniversary lunch will be held at Drysdale House on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August and full details will be in the next issue on what is on offer, cost and booking procedure. This will be a great event and well worth attending to meet other descendants and celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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## Donors

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We would like to acknowledge the following donations made in April.

In memory of

|                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 47 Cpl Hobart Alfred Seymour     | N Nichols                            |
| 246 L/Cpl William Robert Glennon | W Glennon                            |
| 327 Pte Montague Bertram Street  | Peter Keenan                         |
| 352 Sgt Oliver Alfred Page       | M Pos                                |
| 355 Sgt Bill Vaughan             | Ned & Nell Howard, Jill Vaughan      |
| 391 Pte Charles Watkin Cowen     | Mrs Synnot                           |
| 416 Pte Charles William Gray     | P J Gray, A D Gray, D Gray, C Hawkes |
| 476 Pte Frederick Arthur Hazell  | Wesley Hazell                        |
| 508 Dvr Harry Augustus Petterd   | J Petterd                            |
| 509 Gnr Bernard Field Seidel     | Betty Dunkley & Elizabeth Lyons      |
| In memory of all who served      | Augustus Le Sage                     |
| In memory of all who served      | Coal River Valley History Group      |

**Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc. Membership Form**

Name: .....

Postal Address:  
.....  
.....  
.....

Email Address: .....

Telephone (home): ..... (work/mobile): .....

Newsletter Delivery Preference (please tick):                      **Via Post**                       **Via Email**

Subscriptions:    Annual Membership is on a financial year basis from 1 July to 30 June: \$10.00  
                          Membership Paid for Life is a once off payment: \$200.00

Membership type (please tick):                      **New**                       **Renewal**                       **Membership Paid for Life**

Do you wish to make a donation with this membership? (please tick): **General**                       **Plaque**

Total Amount included with this form (membership plus any donation): \$.....

Payments can be made by cheque or postal order posted to: FOSMA, GPO Box 1867, Hobart 7001. Or via direct deposit (you must include your name in the details/ comments box and send an email advising us):

Bank:                      Westpac Bank  
Name of account: Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc.  
BSB number:            037-001  
Account Number: 356809

Do you wish to nominate a Soldier of Interest commemorated on the Avenue? If so, please indicate below:

**Soldiers Name:** .....                      **Tree Number** .....

(Note: You must inform FOSMA if you wish to change any of the above details

**Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc.**  
**GPO Box 1867, HOBART TAS 7001      E-mail: [info@soldierswalk.org.au](mailto:info@soldierswalk.org.au)**  
Patron: His Excellency William Cox AC RFD ED Governor of Tasmania  
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