

# Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc.

## Newsletter Issue 42: April 2009



### Highlights:

- February Dedications
- Bruce Scates Evening

### Dates to remember:

- April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Hobart Town Hall Displays
- ANZAC Day Dawn Service and March



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### President's Report

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As we approach another Anzac Day, it is always pleasing to see the heightened interest shown by the community and media about our military heritage and the sacrifice of Tasmanians through so many conflicts.

Recently I met a large group of Grade 6 students from the Friends School on the Avenue. They were preparing to travel to Canberra for the School trip and will be there for the Anzac Day services. As part of their learning program, each child was going to choose a soldier from the Avenue and undertake research on that individual at the Australian War Memorial as well as online study. They were very interested in how our Avenue has been restored and particularly commented on the transformation around the oval. This is a major reason why our work on the Avenue is so valuable, because it makes our cultural heritage more accessible to students and the community.

I hope that all members and their families will be able to get involved with Anzac Day commemorations this year, and hopefully we will see you at our displays at the Hobart Town Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. More information can be found on this in the newsletter.

John Wadsley

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### Professor Bruce Scates - "*Journeys to Gallipoli and Beyond*"

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On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009, we were pleased to have Professor Bruce Scates present a very engaging talk on "*Journeys to Gallipoli and Beyond*". Professor Scates holds the Chair of History and Australian Studies at Monash University. He has written extensively on war, memory and commemoration, most notably *Return to Gallipoli: Walking the Battlefields of the Great War*. We had a good attendance and enjoyed a sumptuous supper prepared by *I'm back Catering*.

Bruce's talk focussed on how people struggled to cope with the grief of losing a loved one in the Great War. He presented many interesting personal stories of families trying to understand how and why a son, brother, husband or uncle had died. There were also some shameful episodes as well, such as the Commonwealth Government hounding families for years to pay for the costs of engraving inscriptions on headstones in France or Gallipoli – as if they had not already paid enough!

Bruce was also able to show how avenues and other memorials such as our own became focal points for commemoration and grieving as so many families would never be able to see the real grave of their loved one. It was a pleasure to listen to someone who has such passion for history.



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## February 15<sup>th</sup> Dedications

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Our February dedications were very well attended, with our patron, His Excellency Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania, leading the proceedings with a fine dedications speech. And once again we were blessed with wonderful weather. Some 25 plaques were dedicated with the continuing financial support of the Tassal Group Ltd and the State Government, as well as many private donations from families.

Representatives from the Hobart City Council including the Lord Mayor Ald Rob Valentine and Deputy Lord Mayor Ald Eva Ruzicka, RSL, NSAA, RAAF Association and other service organisations and members of the ADF were also present. It was wonderful to have so many family groups present as well, and to be able to hear their stories.

Theses dedications were located in the northern section of the Avenue which has nearly been completed.



*Part of the large crowd listening to the Governor read the dedications*

*One of the dedications being read on the day with Senior V-P Adrian Howard on hand to lend support*



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## Useful Websites

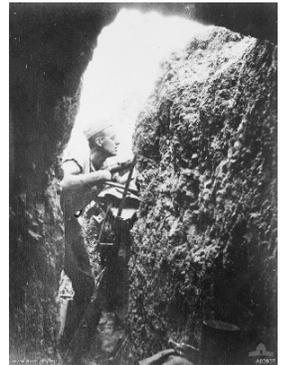
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With the explosion of information available on the internet these days, we thought it was timely to share some of our knowledge in terms of good websites to assist you if you are researching a family member who served for Australia or other countries, or if you are interested in finding out more about the battles and campaigns in which they fought.

### AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL – [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

This site has a wealth of information about Australia's involvement in war. There are a number of areas on the site that are invaluable for research purposes, including:

- **Roll of Honour** – a database for all those who were killed or died during war service and whose names are listed at the AWM
- **Nominal Rolls** – lists of servicemen and women recorded as part of embarkation or repatriation for all major conflicts
- **Honours and Awards** – a database for anyone who has been recommended and/or awarded a medal or honour for bravery for major conflicts
- **Red Cross Wounded and Missing Files** – these 32,000 records are for the Great War only but provide a wealth of information, often first-hand accounts, of how men were killed, wounded or taken prisoner in action
- **Collections Search** – this searchable database gives access to the AWM collection of photographs, private letters, art objects, mementos, sound and film, and technology items
- **Australian Army War Diaries** - many unit diaries from major conflicts have been scanned and digitised which provide an excellent way of tracking a units progress
- **Australians at War** - this section is intended to provide a readily available summary of useful knowledge of Australian military history



### NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA – [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

This is the nation's key repository for records held by Commonwealth government agencies, and they play a crucial role in understanding our war heritage.

- **Defence Service Records** – look for the quick links to this on the front page of the site, then click on the link for the service and conflict/period you are seeking
- **Army World War 1** – as an example once you click on this, go down and find “Name Search” which is the best way of finding a soldier. Type in the name and find the category of records from the drop-down list. Once the search results are displayed, you can refine your search if you have found a lot of matches. If you know the service number or first name of your soldier this will help a lot
- **View Digital Copy** – if your record shows an “r” symbol in a green oval you can click on this to bring up the service record. These are scanned colour images of the original service record and all World War 1 records are now digitised. If you want you can print page by page

***Of course if it's all too difficult, come along to our Town Hall displays on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of April and we can help you with your research. And it's free!!!***

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## Useful Websites (continued)

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### **AUSTRALIANS ON THE WESTERN FRONT 1914-1918 –**

[www.wwlwesternfront.gov.au](http://www.wwlwesternfront.gov.au)

Dotted across the landscape of France and Belgium are hundreds of war cemeteries and memorials where these soldiers lie buried or where their names are listed among those thousands who have 'no known grave, the 'missing'. This website is dedicated to their memory and to those who served with them and returned to Australia, many of them wounded in body and spirit.

### **THE WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT – [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org)**

The aim of the War Graves Photographic Project is to photograph every war grave, individual memorial and family memorial of serving military personnel from WWI to the present day and make these available within a searchable database. A joint venture with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, this will enable families, scholars and researchers to obtain, via the CWGC or TWGPP websites, a copy of the photograph of a grave or memorial which for many is impossible to visit due to the location.



### **DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS – [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals)**

The purpose of Defence honours and awards is to recognise the service of members of the Australian Defence Force, past and present. This website provides information about Defence honours and awards, including:

- the different types of medals available to Australia's defence personnel, past and present,
- the eligibility criteria for various awards,
- how to submit an application for a medal, and
- information about current Defence awards issues.

### **THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (UNITED KINGDOM) – [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)**

The National Archives is the UK government's official archive, containing almost 1,000 years of history, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to digital files and archived websites. If you are researching someone who served with British units you can search for their service records, medal awards, and there are numerous research guides to help you.

### **AUSTRALIANS AT WAR – [www.australiansatwar.gov.au](http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au)**

This web site is dedicated to those Australians who served their nation over the past one hundred years. Through animated documentaries, video, audio and activities you can re-live some of the greatest events in our history, as seen through the eyes of the men and women who were there. You can also build your family military history, and submit your stories and memorabilia for future generations to see and learn from.

### **WAR MEMORIALS IN AUSTRALIA – [www.skp.com.au/memorials2/default.htm](http://www.skp.com.au/memorials2/default.htm)**

This is a private database created by Michael Southwell-Keely who died in 2006. It contains locations, descriptions and images of war memorials in the states and territories of Australia. Memorials include monuments, honour rolls, buildings and a variety of utilitarian facilities all erected in honour and remembrance of those who served their country in war.

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**Many thanks to Duncan Kerr MP SC, Federal Member for Denison and his staff for photocopying this newsletter**

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## Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc. Membership Form

Name: .....

Postal Address: .....  
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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**  
**Phone : 6228 0543 / 6248 7294 E-mail: [info@soldierswalk.org.au](mailto:info@soldierswalk.org.au)**

Patron: His Excellency Peter Underwood AC Governor of Tasmania  
President: J Wadsley                   Secretary: A Gerrard

### Tasmanian Meat Wholesalers Pty. Ltd.

