

## Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc: Newsletter

Issue 11

April 2004

### Contents

Working Bee

Website and Map Launch: Final Dates

Meeting March 31<sup>st</sup>



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### Meeting on the Management Plan

A full meeting of members is planned for Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> in the Hall at the Philip Smith Centre in Edwards St, Glebe for 7:30pm. The meeting will deal mainly with the issue of the Management Plan and provide our official response to the plan.

If you can't make it fear not, you can still make your views known and it is best if you do. The more people who provide comment on the plan the better. Full copies of the plan are available from the Hobart City Council website [www.hobartcity.tas.gov.au/document/sma/index.htm](http://www.hobartcity.tas.gov.au/document/sma/index.htm). The plan can also be viewed in the Customer Services Centre Davey St where there is an exhibition of photographs of the Avenue.

A copy of the response sheet has been added for you to use.

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### Working Bee

A working bee was held on **Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>**. A small turnout of willing workers cleared around trees near the magazine plus cleared a large area of silver wattles seedlings and shoots on the northern section of the Avenue. All were able to see the efforts of the Council crews in removing some very large wattles interfering with trees in the northern section.

Thanks to a number of local businesses for their support; a big thanks to **Barbeques Galore** for the loan of a fine barbeque, **Cripps Nubake** for the donation of bread, meat from Meat Wholesalers and beer from the **Globe Hotel**.

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### Draft Management Plan

The Draft Management Plan has been completed and went to the Parks and Services Committee of the Hobart City Council on February 12th and full Council on February 23rd. The Plan has been approved for a period of public consultation from March 15th to April 5th.

There is currently an exhibition in the council offices in Davey St and consultation response sheets are available. If you cannot make it to the meeting, feel free to make your feelings known and fill in one of these sheets. The more responses and comment the better.

In the next few pages you will find

- Section three of the plan: Vision and Objectives
- Some comments on resources
- A summary of the recommendations with commentary
- A copy of the response sheet to be sent to the Council

Responses should be sent to V B Armstrong, General Manager, Hobart City Council, GPO Box 503 Hobart Tasmania 7000 by April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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### Website and Map Launch

**This will be held at the Gunpowder Magazine on the Domain on Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am. All welcome.**

Copies of the map will be sent to all members. A preview of the site is available at [www.soldierswalk.org.au](http://www.soldierswalk.org.au)

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### 3 Section Three: Vision and Objectives

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#### 3.1 “For every soldier a tree, for every tree a plaque.”

The Soldiers Memorial Avenue is an extensive war memorial within natural grassland to 508 individual servicemen for whom trees were planted in 1918. An essential part of this commemoration was the linkage between individual servicemen and specific tree as signified by individual name plates. The fundamental principle guiding restoration should be “For every soldier a tree, for every tree a plaque”.

#### 3.2 Objectives

##### 3.2.1 Replanting of the Avenue

Sufficient trees should be planted to ensure that for every serviceman originally commemorated on the Avenue, there is a tree once more. Where the tree cannot be replanted in the original position, the trees should be planted as close as possible to those original positions. In the case of the trees under Cross Roads Oval, there are a number of options that would ensure the re-connection of the Avenue.

##### 3.2.2 Identification of Soldiers

Research should continue to produce a final and definitive list of the servicemen commemorated and the original position of the trees. There are a small number of servicemen who were commemorated on the Avenue for whom a precise tree position has yet to be located. In addition, there are trees for which no serviceman has been identified.

##### 3.2.3 Restore the Link between Serviceman and Tree

A fundamental aspect of the original Avenue, subsequently reinforced, was the connection between individual trees and servicemen. The individual plaquing of trees is an important act of commemoration and also serves to mark out the Avenue visually. In addition, individual plaquing makes a powerful statement about the extent of the sacrifice commemorated.

##### 3.2.4 Restoration of the Avenue as a Physical Entity

The Avenue should be restored so that it is obvious that it is an Avenue of four lines of trees. Currently, many trees are obscured and the physical size and extent of the Avenue is not immediately apparent. The nature and existence of the Avenue should be clear whatever the point of entry. There should be a well-defined beginning and end to the Avenue.

##### 3.2.5 Restoration of the Name

The Avenue should be referred to officially as the Soldiers Memorial Avenue. It may also be considered appropriate for the Cross Roads Oval to be re-named as the Soldiers Oval or the Soldiers Memorial Oval.

##### 3.2.6 Harmony with Natural Values

The restoration of the Avenue should ensure harmony with the surrounding environment and while the Avenue should be identifiable as an entity, it should blend with the grasslands and bushland through which it passes.

##### 3.2.7 A Focus for Commemoration

The Avenue is a war memorial comprised of living trees rather than stone and restoration should aim to emphasise this fact. Formal acts of commemoration, educational activities and interpretation on the Avenue should also be in keeping with this memorial aspect and reinforce it. The Avenue could also become as significant an attraction as the Avenues in Ballarat and Kings Park, Perth.

##### 3.2.8 Linkage to other Pedestrian Routes

The Avenue should be emphasized as the focal pedestrian spine for the Queens Domain. A restored Avenue would be a significant part of local tourism infrastructure appealing to heritage and general tourists. Restoration and continuing maintenance of the Avenue would provide a powerful statement about the character of the Hobart community. This would require among other things improved signage and pathways within the bounds of and connecting with the Avenue.

##### 3.2.9 Compatibility of other works

Developments or maintenance work that is to take place within or adjacent to the Memorial Avenue should be compatible with the Avenue and mindful of its significance. This specifically relates to works that may have an adverse physical impact on the trees or the visual integrity of the Avenue.

##### 3.2.10 Completion by 2014

The Avenue should be restored by the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 2014. This would allow for progressive commemoration on the centenary of the deaths of the individuals represented on the Avenue. This completion date would also ensure that the centenary of the inauguration of the Avenue in August 2018 takes place on an Avenue comprised of well-established and healthy trees.

#### Resources

It is expected that the restoration of the Avenue will require resources for a number of sources including the Hobart City Council, families of those commemorated, the community as well as State and Commonwealth agencies. Obviously Council will play the major role in propagating, planting and caring for new trees, maintenance of the Avenue and such like. Special programs such as Work for the Dole, correctional services and the like could assist in the physical transformation of the Avenue. It is expected that families and the community will play the leading role in funding nameplates.

A big thanks to Duncan Kerr's office for photocopying.

#### Friends of Soldiers Walk

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 Patron: His Excellency Mr Richard Butler AC Governor of Tasmania President: A Howard Secretary: R Hunt

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>1. Slashing and Mowing</b>	
Investigate the establishment of a slashing regime for Soldiers Memorial Avenue extending 7 metres either side of the outer row of trees. Slashed material is to be removed off-site. The slashing regime is to avoid the suppression zone under trees, cutting when soil is wet, and cutting in certain nominated areas in spring/early summer.	<i>This would reduce the fire hazard in the Avenue, promote the growth of small native grasses, and improve the visual appearance of the Avenue. Slashing would be timed to avoid bogging of machinery and soil damage, cutting rare plants in some areas of the avenue and under the larger trees.</i>
<b>2. Watering and Mulching</b>	
Reticulated irrigation will not be introduced. Acceptable practices to aid the establishment of new exotic plantings are the use of tubes for deep watering and mulching using pine material. Mulching is not to occur in the vicinity of rare or threatened plant species.	<i>Sprinkler irrigation would cause more problems than it would solve and would probably be of no benefit to the trees themselves. Deep watering through tube reservoirs ensures water gets to the root systems of the trees not unwanted species. Mulching should not be used around established trees to avoid damage to rare native grasses and groundcovers.</i>
<b>3. Removal of Native Vegetation</b>	
a) Selected Eucalypt saplings are to be marked and avoided when slashing to maintain the canopy component of the grassy white gum woodland community.	<i>White gum saplings within the Avenue will be retained to preserve the grassy white gum woodland aspects of the environment. These are few in number and will tie the Avenue into its surrounding woodland.</i>
b) The removal of understorey tree species is permitted where they compete with the cedars and have no role in creating threatened species habitat.	<i>This includes the blue gum, wattles and other species that compete with the cedars for water, often interfere with the cedar canopies. It also includes invading 'weed' plants that are not usual in these grasslands and detract from the aesthetics of the Avenue.</i>
c) Approval of the Threatened Species Unit, DPIWE to be sought prior to the removal of the inter-planted blue gums.	<i>The interplanted blue gum each side of the path do not thrive and do not flower. These will be removed if the all clear is given that no threatened species uses them as habitat. Given their condition this is unlikely.</i>
<b>4. Mulching Trials</b>	
A mulching trial should be conducted on suitable trees in poor health to assess the value of mulching in stabilising their health and particular in coping with prolonged periods of dry weather.	<i>It may be that mulching around some of the poorer trees may help them during drier months of summer. This will be trailed to see if it does make a difference. If it does, then mulch will be used under trees that need it.</i>
<b>5. Tree Surgery</b>	
Trees surgery to be undertaken to improve the appearance of the Avenue with an emphasis on trees likely to remain.	<i>HCC crews will progressively remove dead and diseased wood from the trees. In some cases not all dead wood will be removed if the tree is in need of replacement anyway.</i>
<b>6. Consultation with Families</b>	
All tree replacements, whether dead or in poor condition, should involve families whenever possible.	<i>Families will be contacted if a tree needs to be replaced to inform them that this will be happening and when.</i>
<b>7. Replacement Species</b>	
Replacement trees should be of a species sympathetic in terms of form and character, preferably Cedar of Lebanon, which should be the basis of initial trials.	<i>The Lebanese Cedar is more drought resistant than current species suds n the Avenue and new stock will be grown from seed. This will take some years.</i>
<b>8. Replacement Order</b>	
Within the main body of the Memorial Avenue, replacement trees should be planted in existing or original sites section by section.	<i>The Avenue will be replanted section by section depending on the number of available trees.</i>
<b>9. Options for Missing Sites</b>	
Options for replacing trees from 'lost' sites be researched and a finalised landscape plan for replacement sites drawn up by the end of 2004. This plan should take into account current usage of the intended sites and integrity of a restored Avenue.	<i>A full landscape plan will be drawn up to show new sites to replace those missing due to Crossroads Oval and roadwork. The new sites should be connected to the remaining Avenue and link the section at the Cross roads to the rest of the Avenue.</i>
<b>10. Management of New Trees</b>	
New trees should be watered and mulched after planting, balancing the need to ensure the health of the trees and minimal disturbance to the surroundings during the establishment period.	<i>All new trees will be watered and mulched until they are safely established. This will be for at least three years maybe more.</i>
<b>11. Planting Program</b>	

Replacement trees should be planted on an annual cycle in time for commemoration ceremonies on the anniversary of the Avenue with relatives invited.	<i>All replacement trees will be planted at a set time each year to allow planning of the event and contact with families. It has been suggested that the anniversary would be an appropriate date.</i>
<b>12. Fire Management</b>	
a) The next revision of the Queens Domain Fire Management Plan to incorporate Soldiers Memorial Avenue as a separate vegetation management unit where burning is excluded.	<i>The current fire management plan breaks up the Domain into fire zones which are burnt on a set rotation. While the Avenue is not burnt, it is not included and its importance should be clear in that plan.</i>
b) Slashing of Soldiers Memorial Avenue to extend seven metres beyond the outer row of Cedars to provide fire protection.	<i>The slashing should extend beyond the outer row of trees to provide adequate fire protection.</i>
<b>13. Historical Research</b>	
Historical research should continue with the goal of producing a definitive history of the Avenue and a final list of names of servicemen commemorated.	<i>There are still some puzzles (missing numbers, trees listed as unknown, names without trees) that need to be solved. The story of the Avenue should also be preserved and documented.</i>
<b>14. Surviving Name Plates</b>	
The plinths at the junction of the Memorial Avenue and Davies Avenue should be opened and remaining plaques removed for restoration and later use in interpretive displays. The full collection of nameplates should be consolidated for interim display.	<i>All the surviving name plates should be collected together and some display arranged. A permanent display should be arranged as part of the interpretation plan for the Avenue. The plinths should be opened and the number and condition of the nameplates noted and the name plates preserved elsewhere.</i>
<b>15. New Name Plates: Design and Placement</b>	
There should be a plaque or nameplate near each tree on the Avenue identifying the serviceman for whom it was planted; the level of detail to be negotiated with descendants, noting that such identification should be unobtrusive and meaningful.	<i>Every tree should have a nameplate. It is hoped that they will carry full names, addresses, occupation and some personal notes as well as the standard military service information. The nameplate placed by tree #3 in 2002 will be a good model.</i>
<b>16. Site Interpretation</b>	
a) An interpretation plan should be developed for the Soldiers Memorial Avenue ensuring compatibility with that of the Domain as a whole. This interpretation plan should incorporate specifications for individual tree plaques and both on and off site interpretation.	<i>A full interpretation plan will be developed dealing with signage, information boards, sculpture and so forth along the Avenue so that visitors will know what they are looking at, how it got there and what it means.</i>
b) The Avenue should in future be referred to by its original name, the Soldiers Memorial Avenue, and that the Cross Roads Oval be renamed as the Soldiers Memorial Oval (or Soldiers Oval).	<i>The use of the original name emphasises the importance of the Avenue as a war memorial.</i>
c) The plinths should be removed as part of the process, such removal to take place as the new interpretation works are completed.	<i>The plinths and their name boards carry a number of errors and do not provide sufficient information.</i>
<b>17. Infrastructure works</b>	
All infrastructure work within or adjacent to the Avenue footprint should only be undertaken after approval is given by the Director, Parks and Customer Services Division in the case of maintenance or repairs to existing services or new services. In all instances, account should be taken of the potential impact on the trees and impact on the visual integrity of the Avenue with proposals explicitly addressing these issues.	<i>This has been included to make sure that no work takes place in the Avenue unless it has been approved and 'fits' with the Avenue. The recent installation of a septic tank would probably not have occurred or at the very least been done with more consideration for the the surrounds.</i>
<b>18. Training for Personnel</b>	
All Council personnel involved in work within the Avenue footprint should undertake an orientation program on the extent and significance of the Avenue.	
<b>19. Project Management</b>	
A working group should be established to oversee the restoration and the implementation of this plan. This group should consist of an arboriculturalist, a cultural heritage expert, a person with park and bushland management responsibilities and representatives from Friends of Soldiers Walk Inc.	