

Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Inc. Newsletter Issue 33: August 2007

Highlights

Quiz Night

Book Review: Tasmania's AIF Lighthorsemen



Dates to remember

Annual General Meeting 5 September 2007, 7.30 pm

Lindisfarne RSL Club rooms Lincoln Street Lindisfarne



MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2007/08 ARE DUE NOW

President's Report

Another financial year has drawn to a close and it is appropriate that we reflect on what we have achieved over the last twelve months. The announcement by the State Government that it was providing a \$40,000 grant to our restoration effort was a major boost to our financial position. I must place on record again our thanks to the RSL for their support in gaining this grant. This funding, along with Tassal's confirmation of its major financial commitment to FOSMA until the end of calendar 2008, ensures that we can move ahead with confidence with our program of plaque dedications and other work on the Avenue.

We have been heartened by the number of families coming forward to contribute towards plaques for their ancestors. As well, a number of people have provided general donations and this, combined with the introduction of the "Membership paid for life" category, has brought in much needed funds to support our work. To all of you, who have contributed, thank you very much.

Our relationship with the Hobart City Council is very strong, as it is with a range of service organisations, community associations and local businesses, the latter who often provide services or goods free of charge to help us. Our main sponsors' logos are listed at the end of the newsletter. Please support them.

I must also pay tribute to all the members of the committee who have worked so hard to keep our work moving: Mike Wilkie, Andrea Gerrard, Glenn Hardwick, Helen Hartley, Adrian Howard, John Trethewey Owen Hutchinson and Peter Pickering, as well as our ex-officio members Chris Oakes and Eva Ruzicka. Well done to all of you.

Finally I have to announce that Glenn Hardwick will be stepping down at the AGM due to family and work commitments. Glenn has done a wonderful job as Treasurer for the past three years and he has helped to ensure that we remain a financially strong and viable organisation. His attention to detail is reflected in our excellent Audit reviews over that time. We wish Glenn all the best and hope he will stay in touch.

John Wadsley

Quiz Night Success

On Friday 17 August, we held another fabulous Quiz Night at the Lindisfarne RSL. Approximately 50 people attended what was a very successful fundraising event as well as lots of fun.

We had a wonderful selection prizes and food donated by Tassal, Strategic National Distributors, Fullers Bookshop, ABC Shop, Australia Post, Hobart Aquatic Centre, K&D Warehouse, Hill Street Grocer, Lindisfarne RSL and committee members. After eight rounds of questions, luck door prize draw, raffles and a huge supper, we raised approximately \$850 – a fantastic effort. Thanks to all who came along and enjoyed the evening.

Note: We will try and select better music next year!!!!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 5th September 2007, commencing at 7.30pm.** It will be held at the Lindisfarne RSL Clubrooms, Lincoln Street Lindisfarne.

The Order of Business will be as follows:

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous AGM
3. Business Arising from Previous AGM
4. Presidents Report
5. Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
6. TCF Project – Final Report
7. Election of Office Bearers:
 - President
 - 2 Vice Presidents
 - Secretary and Public Officer
 - Treasurer
 - 4 General Committee
8. Appointment of Auditor
9. Constitutional Amendments:
 - Inclusion of member categories –“ Membership Paid for Life” and “Life Member”
 - Amendment to allow bi-monthly meetings of full committee, if required
10. Other Business

As mentioned Glenn Hardwick is resigning from the position of Treasurer, so if you have some financial background or committee experience and you would like help out we would love to hear from you SOON!!! We hope to see many of our members there to help us establish the foundations for an exciting 12 months.

If you are interested in nominating or need to advise an apology, please contact John Wadsley on 6248 7294 or 0417 487 289.

Spring Working Bees

As normal we will be having a number of Working Bees during Spring to tidy up the Avenue. We would appreciate any help that you can offer. The dates are as follows:

Sunday 16th September 2007 : General Cleanup - weeding and litter removal

Meet at 10.00 am, TCA ground northern car park. BBQ to follow

Sunday 21st October 2007 : Plaque Cleaning

Meet at 10.00 am, TCA ground northern car park. BBQ to follow

Sunday 11th November 2007 : Dedication Ceremony and Display at the Gunpowder Magazine

Major Dedication Ceremony will be in the centre section of the Avenue, starting at 9.00 am. Further details to follow in next newsletter.

Public Display of Great War and SMA Memorabilia in the Gunpowder Magazine from 10.00 am to 3.00pm

Some thoughts on newspapers and local “propaganda” during the Great War

(prepared by Andrea Gerrard)

In an age of instant communication via telephone, internet, mobile phone – all or any of which are enjoyed by a vast majority of the population, give a thought to the humble newspaper.

In 1914 the newspaper gave people the main source of news of every type – whether international or current affairs, sports, social or even entertainment in the form of serials and poetry. The good citizens of Hobart and its surrounding areas had the choice of several newspapers and these included *The Mercury*, *The Weekly Courier* and the *Tasmanian Mail*. Other smaller local or special interest papers were also produced at this time. Print was the main form of communication. A look back at the newspapers sheds light on a whole different world.

The size, layouts, font etc has all changed. *The Weekly Courier* and *Tasmanian Mail* always had about an 8 page spread of photographs on a range of subjects and during the war regularly had pictures of men who had enlisted or who had been killed or wounded in action. This is a great source of information for those doing family history. Many of the photographs on our website have been sourced from these newspapers, especially those relating to the original plantings.

In mid August 1914 when the Army Camp was being set up at Pontville, *The Mercury* published several stories about it and always referred to it as ‘the concentration camp at Pontville’. Little did the journalists or editors of *The Mercury* realise what dreadful connotations the words ‘concentration camp’ would have during the Second World War.



Above: Light Horse units at Pontville

By early October of 1914, Brownell Bros of Liverpool Street (now Myers) was having a special sale of linoleums. In the middle of one of these adverts ran the following: -

‘Bring the school children to see the WAR RELICS on view in the special window at BROWNELLS. Arranged in honour of our troops shortly embarking for the front. By courtesy of many of our citizens, we are making fresh additions to our crowd-drawing display almost daily. Besides pictures of His Majesty King George V, and several prominent British Generals, also war plaques, there is an interesting collection of Cannon, Swords, Muskets, Javelins, Pistols and Medals associated with the stirring days when our united Empire was in the making.



‘Tis an object-lesson no patriotic Briton should fail to see. Crowds gather round the window the whole day long. Come and join them and be sure to bring the children, it will be an object-lesson they will never forget.’

Left: AIF Units marching through Hobart in 1914

The mind boggles at what the window looked like and the security that would be needed to recreate such a thing today. Many people saw themselves as British even though like the Brownell family they had been here for several generations.

Book Review (by John Wadsley)

Pickering, P (compiled by) *Tasmania's AIF Lighthorsemen C Squadron 3rd Light Horse Regiment*

(published by the author, 2006) Limited edition (250), individually numbered and signed by the author. 142pp plus nominal roll. Black and white/colour maps and photographs

It is wonderful to see more books being published on Tasmania's contribution to Australia's war effort, and this edition is particularly relevant as it has been compiled by FOSMA's newest committee member, Peter Pickering. Peter has previously served in the Australian Army (as a tank crewman in C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment) and so comes to the topic of the Light Horse with a strong appreciation of military matters and tradition. It is quite clear that he has enormous respect for the AIF Light Horse units of the Great War. He is also involved with the re-enactment Light Horse group that participates at Anzac Day and other formal occasions.

This book covers the organisation, equipment, history and training of C Squadron of the 3rd Light Horse regiment, which was formed in Tasmania and all its reinforcements were from Tasmania during the war.

He describes the training at Pontville camp as well as the voyage to Egypt. The book does not deal in detail with the Gallipoli campaign, leaving that to the many other texts on the subject. Rather it focuses on the Light Horse experience in Egypt and Palestine. There are good accounts of the battles of Romani, Rafa, Gaza, Beersheba, Jericho, the advance to Es-Salt and the attack on Abu-Tellul. Peter's excellent use of maps (from the Official History) as well as numerous photos, brings his subject to life as well as a number of letters from Lighthorsemen.

Of particular interest for family historians and researchers is the list of original members of C Squadron, listings of all reinforcements to the unit and a Roll of Honour, included at the end of the book. A worthy addition to Tasmania's war record.

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

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